CIRCULATION — LAST WEEK 115,000! Sample copies sent free to any address.

TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

THE GREATEST — NATIONAL Weekly Newspaper IN THE UNITED STATES

FOUNDED IN 1836. TOLEDO OHIO: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896. VOL. LXV: NO. 1.

Poetry.

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS.

The back-log's flame has died away,
The embers into ashes drift;
Outside the snows are eddying gray,
And piling fast in many a drift,
While robed in snow the cedar tree
Where once the cat-bird nightly sang,
And from the eaves by two or three
The icicles like arrows hang.

The shadows on the somber wall
Flit, cross and dance amid the gloom,
And firelight ghostly comes to fall
In changing hues about the room;
The spiders in the corners dim
Within their webs the closer cling,
And from the mantle's oaken rim
A pair of children's stockings swing.

O'er field and forest, lane and road,
Fast and still faster swirl the snows,
And in the barn loft snugly stowed
A drowsy rooster wakes and crows;
The clock strikes 12 and midnight wanes,
While winter skies stretch cold and drear,
Frost-flowers blossom on the panes,
The snows float by and disappear.

And then across the roof-tree swells,
Borne by the winds that fall and rise,
A sound of many hurrying bells,
A sound that ebbs and peals and dies;
And next adown the chimney creeps
The children's Saint in all the lands,
And true to all the trysts he keeps,
White-bearded on the hearthstone stands.
—Ernest McGaffey.

THE CHRISTMAS CHILDREN.

Yo tin horn bloweth loud and long
Adown ye noisy street;
For Christmas cometh, and a song
For Christmas time is meet;
And ye shall do the Christ no wrong
To love the children sweet.

The joy that shineth in the eyes
Of children charmeth still;
There is no man so great and wise
But there shall drink his fill
Of all the light of paradise,
Shining of Christ His will.

And be it trump or tinsel horn
That pleaseth them to play,
They, makers merrie, shall adorn
The Christ's own holiday,
For Christ himself a child was born
And loveth them always!

Thy bloom, the roses of the earth,
Thy all is sunshine blest;
And that lone one of love hath dearth
Where'in no children nest,
And he hath more than jewel's worth
Who loveth children best.

Wherefore, let children merrie make
While bells of Christmasse chime,
And to thine heart the darlings take
And sing them in thy rhyme,
Then shall do this for Christ His sake,
At His own Christmasse time!
—Frank L. Stanton.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And mild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

But in despair I bowed my head—
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"
—Henry W. Longfellow.

Miscellany.

STYLISH MOHAIR.

Deep Green, With a Trimming of Violet Cloth.

The mohair dress that wears forever and makes a petticoat afterwards has come in with such a vengeance that every woman has invested in one. Mohair is so easily fashioned into street gowns, and keeps its shape so well, that one wonders how anything can ever take its place.

In a Fifth avenue window there stands a lay figure of a mohair dress in

IN GREEN AND VIOLET.

deep green with an applique of violet cloth around the foot. At one side it extends high, almost to the hips, and between the mohair and the cloth there is a heavy braiding of black.

The wrap matches the dress. It is green mohair with an edging of violet cloth put on irregularly. The collar is the same with abundant scroll work of black. It is a wrap that might be easily copied if the home dressmaker could master the intricacies of the box plait in the back of the wrap.

The hat is a girondin, rolling at the back. Under the brim there nestle violets with green leaves, while ostrich feathers rise from the top of the hat. Two lace wings stand above the violets.

A Redeeming Feature.

"Oh, the terrible pawnshops!" said Ethel to George who had just rescued the watch. "What tales of misery those places could unfold had they tongues!"

"Even a pawnshop has its redeeming feature," responded George.

"What is it? I'd like to know?"

"The ticket."—New York Tribune.

What They Were.

"Pillbody has a good many revolutionary ideas in his head."

"More are not ideas revolving in Pillbody's head. They are wheels."—Indianapolis Journal.

Growing Affection.

"Daughter, I am convinced that Mr. Lampton is really in love with you."

"Why, mamma?"

"He has quit kicking your dog when you are not looking."—Chicago Record.

Considerate.

Housekeeper—Half the things you wash are torn to pieces.

Washerwoman—Yes, mum; but when a thing is torn in two or more pieces, mum, I count them only as one piece, mum.—New York Tribune.

"HE TOLD ME TER BRING YER DESE, MISS,
NOT GIVE 'EM TER NO ONE BUT YOU.
I AXED HIM TER SEN' HIS CARD ALONG,
-EZ ALL DER GENTLEMEN DO---
BUT HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID NO, MISS,
"DESE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS," SEZ HE,
"CAN TALK OUT PLAIN TER HER, MY BOY,
BETTER NOR YOU OR ME."
SO I BROUGHT DER FLOWERS RIGHT TER YER,
LOADED DOWN FROM ME HEAD TO ME TOES.
AND YER'LL FIND DER MESSAGE FROM HIM, MISS,
IN DER HEART OF A CHRISTMAS ROSE.

AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

BETHLEHEM'S CHRISTMAS.

There is not one person in 10,000 who knows how the Christmas holiday is kept in Bethlehem, the city most closely connected with the day. Bethlehem of this time has 8,000 inhabitants and is not attractive in appearance, as the streets are too narrow for vehicles. Only donkeys and camels and foot passengers traverse the narrow alleys. The town is but five miles south of Jerusalem.

There is a splendid road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the drivers take one over the ground at a furious speed. Of course, the city is larger and better built than in the time of Christ, but otherwise has not changed very essentially. The great Church of the Nativity and some of the larger buildings are since the day of Christ, but many of the buildings doubtless stood at the time of his birth. At Christmas every one visits the Field of the Shepherds, a mile away from the church, which is reputed to be the place where the shepherds tended their flocks. Back at the big church a procession of bishops, priests and people forms in the square before the edifice, each man dressed in his most gorgeous robes. Turkish soldiers line both sides of the streets to clear the way for the procession. The Latin patriarch of Jerusalem arrives, is met by the procession carrying banners and immense candles and all go into the Latin chapel through the main entrance.

The entrance is so small that but one can enter at a time, and he must stoop to do so. The reason for this is that the Mohammedans at one time did so much to annoy the Christians, even riding into the church on horseback, that the entrance was made small to keep them out. Inside the structure is very ancient, some of it dating from the time of Constantine. In the Latin chapel of St. Catherine services are held all night, and at midnight the patriarch of Jerusalem says mass. The chapel is filled with people sitting on the floor. Then the procession repairs to the Grotto of the Nativity, under the church. Originally this was simply a natural cave in a limestone rock—of course the original manger was not preserved. Now marble slabs cover the walls and floors and the ten-foot ceiling carries 32 brass lamps. Many religious pictures of poor execution hang on the walls and in the east end of the cave is a small recess hung about with 15 lamps. On the floor of the recess a bright silver star is set in, and it is almost worn away from the constant kissing it receives.

Most of the worshipers remain in the church all night; occasionally some steal out and are driven away home. The clear moon makes the country as bright as day. The Christmas day of Bethlehem is without the good cheer and happiness of our day, for the home life is so different. There is no feasting and giving of presents, nothing but religious ceremonies.

The Proper Way.

"What can we do for you?" asked the coal dealer.

"I find," replied the visitor, "that the sudden cold weather has depleted my supply of fuel to an extent which makes it necessary for me to apply to this establishment—"

"You mean that you want to order a ton of coal?"

"No, sir; I do not mean anything of the kind. I realized the respectful consideration due to anything so exclusive and aristocratic as a ton of anthracite coal. I desire to invite, request, petition or entreat it; but dont' think for a minute that I so far forget myself as to order it."—Washington Star.

Sizing Him Up.

Boatswain—The new mate must be a druggist.

Helmsman—Why?

Boatswain—He ordered me to pipe all hands to mustard.—Philadelphia North American.

Merely a Hint.

He—Nature abhors a vacuum.

She—Yes; but probably Nature never sat up all night, hoping, every time she yawned, that he would take the hint.

Then he grabbed his hat and went.—Cleveland Leader.

Inspired.

Willie—Papa, what is a newspaper editor's inspired utterance?

Papa (one of them)—Usually a big fat ad. my son.—Philadelphia North American.

DESIGN OF STATUE TO WAR CORRESPONDENT M'GAHAN

New York, Dec. 16.—The design of C. H. Nichaus, the sculptor, for the statue of the great American war correspondent, Captain Januarius Aloysius MacGahan, has finally been accepted by the "MacGahan Statue Fund" committee, says the Journal. It is considered one of the best works of that already well-known artist. It represents MacGahan in campaigning costume, seated, and presumably watching the course of battle.

The idea of erecting a statue originated last spring with Mr. Murat Halstead and was enthusiastically seconded by MacGahan's old chums and fellow-correspondent, Francis D. Millet, and by Colonel Greene, U. S. A., who represented the war department in the Russo-Turkish war of 1878. There are also on the committee Messrs. Robert Dorr, Julius Chambers, George H. Sandison and Charles E. Hasbrook.

The movement has been eagerly taken up by prominent newspaper men all over the country, and it is hoped the statue, which is to be colossal, will be ready by next spring.

Captain MacGahan was born in Perry county, O., in 1844. He was a brother of Judge P. A. MacGahan, of Toledo, O. After picking up an education the best way he could while working on his father's farm, he went, at the age of 16, to St. Louis as a bookkeeper. He occasionally wrote letters to the Huntington (Ill.) Democrat, and also read law. In 1869 he made a tour through Europe, studying international law and learning languages, and in 1870 was sent as special correspondent with the retreating army corps of the defeated French General Bourbaki.

In 1876 he went through Bulgaria for the London Daily News, and his brilliant letters on the Turkish atrocities were one of the causes of the war that followed. Although lamed for life by a painful accident, he next accompanied the army of General Gourko for the London Daily News on the memorable campaign from the Danube to the walls of Constantinople.

A Canvasser's Troubles.

The Canvasser—Madam, is your husband a bimetallist?

The Lady of the House—Who, Mr. Summerwein?

"That's his name, is it?

"Whose name? Mr. Summerwein's?"

"Yes. Is he a bimetallist?"

"You mean is Mr. Summerwein?"

"Why, yes, of course. Is he a bimetallist?"

"I guess maybe he was."

"What makes you think so?"

"Because he buys scrap iron."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Youthful Surmise.

"Tommy, who was Joan of Arc?" asked the teacher.

"Noah's wife," said Tommy, who is considered great at guessing.—Philadelphia Record.

The Reason.

Maud—Too bad, old fellow, the hanging committee skied your canvas.

D'Auber—My boy, with the hanging committee the art is to conceal the art.—London Figaro.

Our Serial Story.

Copyrighted, 1896, by Rivington Pyke.

THE FELLOW PASSENGERS:

A Mystery and Its Solution.

By RIVINGTON PYKE,
Author of "THE MAN WHO DISAPPEARED," "LONDON OF THE PAST," &c, &c

It was twenty minutes past four on the following morning—Sunday morning—when the train deposited Mrs. Bent at Carlisle. She had slept little on the way, the cold being too intense. Consequently, she felt more dead than alive as she stepped down to the platform.

She inquired from a porter as to the whereabouts of the "Albion," and was informed that that hotel was not then open. There was one near the station, though, where she could get a bed—and perhaps some refreshments. To this, Mrs. Bent had herself conducted.

Having ascertained that there was no possibility—the day being Sunday—of getting off Guilby-wards till 9:41 in the evening—nearly sixteen hours ahead—Mrs. Bent resigned herself comfortably to slumber. She did not rise till late. Then she, at 9 o. sent a man to the "Albion" to inquire for any letters or messages that might be awaiting her there.

She did not quite know what to expect. If her late husband's consecrate was in Carlisle, of course he would return with her messenger and explain his business. If not——? Well, it was a puzzle; and Mrs. Bent's brain was too exhausted to attempt, even, to solve it.

The messenger came back in a few minutes with a telegram.

"Is that all there was?" Mrs. Bent inquired, a little disappointed.

"Yes," the man said.

"Nothing else—no message—no one been inquiring for me?"

"They didn't say so," the man responded dubiously. "However, if you like, I'll go round again."

Before asking the man to do this, Mrs. Bent opened her communication, and examined its contents. The telegram was short, and scarcely more satisfactory—or less puzzling—than the former one. It had been sent from a London office, late on the previous evening. An hour afterwards, on comparing the twin messages, Mrs. Bent discovered that they had been put on the wires at the same moment and from the same office.

The wording of this Carlisle telegram was as follows:

"Keep away from Gulby Junction. Come straight to 12 Elizabeth street, Hamnstead, London."

Had Mrs Bent's bewilderment at the course of events been less comp.ete, this message would have added to it. As it was, that effect was impossible. Her mind had already been stretched so far in the direction of surprises that it now rebelled against further strain.

"Is that all right, ma'am?" her messenger inquired. His words recalled her to herself.

"Oh, yes. Quite right," she replied, with a start. The man touched his cap and walked away. As soon as possible after this, Mrs. Bent retreated to the seclusion of her own room.

Once there, she spread out the two telegrams and the Liverpool letter, and compared their contents. "Disregard newspapers," "Keep away from Gulby Junction," and "Come to 12, Elizabeth street"—these seemed the keystones of the structure. From these, she had tried to deduce the form and bearing of the whole matter.

On the newspaper theory of a confederate, she could understand the two latter of the three phrases. To go near Gulby Junction might—conceivably—mean recognition of her identity; which—conceivably—might upset the confederate's plans. No. 12, Elizabeth street, on the same theory, was quite obviously the present hiding place of this accomplice. But, then—who and what was he? What had she to do with him? Why should she go out of her way to aid him, or why attend his pleasure? If he wanted help from her, if, even, he wanted speech with her, surely (Mrs. Bent felt) he ought to have confided in her more fully.

Moreover, at this point, she was met by the difficulty of harmonizing these deductions with the plain meaning of the first of these phrases. "Disregard newspapers"—now, if that meant anything at all, it meant that she was not to pay any attention to the newspaper reports about a confederate. Which theory clashed fundamentally with the other one. The two were mutually destructive.

A keen mind, when beset on all sides by difficulties, is apt to behave like a stag at bay—to put aside its usual prudence, and to strike out blindly at its adversaries. This was the temper to which a prolonged study of the three documents—taken in conjunction with newspaper information—reduced Mrs. Bent.

"Go to London to join this man?" she murmured. "Keep away from Gulby, where my poor husband lies—lest I should upset some of the stranger's schemes—vile schemes, too, most probably! No, never! I will go straight to Gulby. I will make myself known there, claim my husband's body, act in all ways candidly. I might perhaps have been a partaker with my husband in unlawful schemes, but not with this stranger! No—for the future I will join in no more plots. It may be, even, that I will reveal the whereabouts of this confederate to the police."

Strong in this resolution, Mrs. Bent remained quiet throughout the afternoon, being anxious to husband her flowers for the events of the morrow. A study of the train times and of a railway map convinced her that her best plan would be to travel by the 8:41 p. m. train as far as Wigan, where she would arrive at ten minutes after 11. To go nearer to Gulby that night was impracticable; and, besides, in any case, the lateness of her arrival in the neighborhood would prevent her from doing anything to the purpose.

This scheme was duly carried out. Just after 8 o'clock, she again sent over to the "Albion," to inquire whether there were any further communications; but nothing had come. Then she started, and, soon after 11, was installed in a comfortable room at the "Balcarres" Hotel at Wigan.

A slow train next morning—Monday—took her on to Gulby Junction, depositing her there about 10:30. Here, on alighting, she inquired for the station-master. Mr. Weeks promptly placed himself at her service.

"You had an accident here," she said, "in which Mr. George W. Bent, of New York, was killed."

Mr. Weeks inclined his head cautiously.

"I am Mrs. Bent," she said, "his widow."

Mr. Weeks was overcome.

"I learnt all about the collision from the newspapers," Mrs. Bent went on. "I wish, of course, to claim the body, and will arrange myself for its interment."

Mr. Weeks nodded dubiously. This lady's arrival put quite a new face on the matter. The police, no doubt, would have something to say to her. Likewise the coroner.

"There is going to be an inquest," Mr. Weeks said. "This afternoon, at three. Perhaps I'd better let Sergeant Higgs know about you."

A messenger was sent for the Sergeant, who quickly made his appearance. He was almost as greatly disturbed as the station master. One thing only the Sergeant saw clearly—that inspector Marsh must at once be informed of Mrs. Bent's advent. After assuring himself that she was really what she pretended to be, Higgs sent off a message to Manchester. He had been rated on the Saturday morning for his dilatoriness in connection with this case. He was resolved now, to make up for that by excessive promptness.

"I should like to see my—my husband," Mrs. Bent hinted, after a while.

"Certainly," said the Sergeant, "certainly. We shall want you to identify him, you know, and to give evidence at the inquest."

Mrs. Bent shuddered; but next moment chid herself for the weakness, and steeled her nerves. After all, she would not be the first wife who had looked upon the face of a dead partner.

The bodies of the two passengers had been removed to a spare bedroom in the "Legh Arms, had been placed in coffins, and otherwise prepared for interment. At the foot of the American's coffin lay, in a bundle, the clothes in which he had met his death. Sergeant Higgs conducted the poor woman to the door of the room, and then left her. He had imagination enough to understand that she would dislike the presence of a witness during her first transports of grief.

The face of the American was terribly bruised—indeed, he was no pleasant sight to look upon. The bruises, too, made recognition difficult. Only a mother or a wife could have spoken positively as to his identity.

Sergeant Higgs closed the door, and remained outside. To do the worthy man justice, he did not even listen to what transpired within. He was prepared for sobs and moans—for possibly a faint. So long as Mrs. Bent did not detain him an unreasonable time, he was willing that she should have her way.

But this was just what she did do. With admirable patience, he waited fifteen minutes, and then began to think of intruding. After a further delay of five minutes, making twenty in all, he tapped softly at the door.

There was no answer. Not a sound came from within. And, when Higgs came to think of it, the room had been strangely quiet for at least ten minutes. A little in dread, he knocked again, more loudly, and then opened the door.

Mrs. Bent, as he feared, had fainted. She lay in a heap on the floor, beside the coffin. The body, queerly enough, showed signs of having been partially lifted from its receptacle, and the clothes at the foot of it were thrown about in some disorder. The Sergeant marvelled as his eye fell on these signs of a strange activity.

With the help of the landlady, Mrs. Bent was removed into an adjoining chamber, and after a time regained a modicum of consciousness. "Where am I?" she cried, as her eyes glanced wildly about the room. "Where is George? . . . George—oh, I remember." Then she burst into a childish fit of sobbing.

Sergeant Higgs's duties called him away. He whispered to the landlady that Mrs. Bent would be wanted at the inquest, and that he would come in again about two, to arrange for her appearance. Then he left the poor woman in the landlady's charge.

It was now close upon noon. Just before one o'clock—an hour in advance of the time he had fixed—Sergeant Higgs returned to the inn, accompanied by Inspector Marsh. The latter, recognizing the importance of Mrs. Bent's advent and, with the object of gaining information from her, had hastened to Gulby.

"How is Mrs. Bent now?" Marsh asked brusquely, blinking all ceremony. "I want to see her, if possible."

The landlady seemed disturbed. "She's gone out for a walk," was the response. "Didn't you see her anywhere, as you came along?"

A little brisk cross-examination elicited the fact that Mrs. Bent had quickly recovered from her faintness, and had then proposed to take the air. "A little walk out-of-doors will do me good," she said. The landlady, of course, had no title to detain her, and, after a short remonstrance as to the unwisdom of the proceeding, had left her to go her own way.

Marsh looked blackly at Sergeant Higgs. That the woman had fled was his first intuition. Higgs cowered before the glance.

"I'd no suspicion of this," he said, lamely. "She seemed quite willing to stay and give evidence."

Inspector Marsh wasted no time in words. "She must be found," he said promptly. "We can do the talking after." Learning from the landlady that Mrs. Bent had gone in the direction of Gulby Junction Station, he at once hurried after her.

He saw nothing of her on the way, but Sergeant Higgs, who accompanied him, ascertained from various cottagers that Mrs. Bent had passed by their doors soon after 12 o'clock. On arriving at the station still more definite news was procured.

"I noticed her on the platform," said Weeks, "just before the 12:16, for Wigan way, came in. I was very busy, though, at the time, and soon lost sight of her."

"I saw her get into the train," added one of Week's assistants. "She stood back against the booking office wall till the engine driver whistled, and then she made a dart for the nearest compartment. I thought it rather funny behaviour."

Marsh next inquired where she had booked for. It transpired, though, that she had not bought any ticket. Either she started without one, or was traveling with the return half of her morning's ticket.

The incident, altogether, was a perplexing one. Why on earth had she run away? Was she, after all, a partner in the dead man's crime?

Marsh pondered over these questions for a few seconds, and then brushed his thoughts aside. "It is no time for wondering," he muttered. "I must act. This woman must be followed and made to explain."

CHAPTER XVI.

Inspector Marsh's search at Broadhurst's residence, on the previous Saturday evening, proved a fiasco. There were plenty of papers about, but they revealed nothing as to any connection with an American, nor yet as to any confederacy in the swindle. On the contrary, they tended to place Walter's character and Sunday schoolish tendencies beyond reach of question.

Marsh left, by the last train for Manchester, in a state of high dudgeon. He had thought the search a sure card to play. Even after its failure, he refused to be wholly convinced. Possibly, a still more exhaustive search—for which he could not spare the time—might have brought some damaging fact to light. Anyhow, he left a strict injunction with Sergeant Bullough that the house should be carefully observed.

It was this that led to Bob Nicholl's advent (which took place about half-past nine on the following morning—Sunday—being reported. Sergeant Bullough at once hastened to the house.

"May I come in?" he asked quite apologetically, when the door was opened.

"Certainly, sergeant," was Mr. Ormrod's response. The latter had come again to his daughter, after a sleepless night and an uncomfortably early breakfast.

Bob, with the two women for listeners, was declaiming with great energy against the folly of suspecting Walter.

"He's no accomplice of that Yank," Bob was saying, hotly. "Precious likely, indeed! If he weren't such a lamb, I should have said it was far more likely he'd had a row with him. I never saw a man yet deserve better to have his head punched."

Mr. Ormrod quietly propounded his theory that Walter's brain had been affected; and that whatever he had done since the collision was done under this influence. Bob, instantly and somewhat noisily, agreed with the old gentleman.

"Well, I hope it may prove so," said the sergeant, who still retained a fragment of his former faith. "But still, I must say, there are certain things in the case that will want a lot of explaining. For instance, Walter's feeling in the American's pockets and stealing his keys——"

Mr. Ormrod was silent. Bob impulsively brushed the statement aside. "Who says he did that?" he inquired, contemptuously. And when the evidence for the statement had been explained to him, he pointed out curtly that the whole theory of Walter's guilt rested on the word of this girl of ten.

"If the American's luggage could be found," said the Sergeant, "and if it could be proved now that Walter had not meddled with that——"

This point about the luggage was a new one with Bob, and its importance had to be explained in some detail. As the Sergeant proceeded to enlighten him, Bob's face lit up with the consciousness of a discovery.

"I can tell you something about that," he said. "I can throw some light on that matter. While this Yank was leaning out through the carriage window a porter came up and had a chat with him——"

"Yes, yes."

"Well, this porter handed him a small bag—the one that was found with him after the smash. But he said something also about some boxes, and, as I was standing close by, I happened to overhear."

"That's important," said the Sergeant, gleefully. "Do you remember the words?"

"I didn't notice carefully," said Bob. "I don't remember the words, but the sense was this—the porter had put some boxes into the cloak-room, and brought the American a ticket."

"Did you see——?"

"I saw the porter hand him the ticket. The American went on to tell the man that he would probably write for his boxes to be sent on to him; and the porter said that that would be done if the ticket were enclosed in the letter."

"That's good, that's good," said the Sergeant. "I must get Inspector Marsh down this." Finding now, that Bob had told all he knew, the Sergeant went off to the railway station, and from the telegraph office there sent on a message to Manchester.

One result of this telegram was an inquiry at Euston, on the part of Scotland Yard—the upshot of which may fittingly be described later. A second result was a message from Inspector Marsh to Sergeant Bullough, telling him to detain Bob Nicholls until he (the inspector) appeared. This was followed as soon as the trains allowed, by Marsh in person.

With a fuller knowledge of the intricacies of the case than Bullough possessed, Inspector Marsh subjected Bob to a very searching cross-examination as to this contact between Broadhurst and the American. Nothing, though, of any moment transpired—for the simple reason that Bob, in all honesty, had nothing to reveal. Not the slightest admission could Marsh wring from Bob to support the theory he had formed—that Broadhurst and the American were all along acting in collusion.

This theory, though, was strengthened in a measure, by Bob's information about the luggage. If a cloak-room ticket had been handed to Bent by the porter, it ought to have been found in his possession. But none was so found. Therefore, almost certainly, it had been taken away by Broadhurst, when he abstracted the keys and the railway ticket.

The latter's return to London was thus accounted for. He wished, of course, to lay hold of the deceased's trunks. This seemed to imply, by the way, that he had a full knowledge of their contents; such knowledge as Bent alone could have given him; which, in turn, implied collusion—of longer or shorter standing.

Might it not be that Bent, finding himself in need of a confederate, had opened up negotiations with Broadhurst—possibly, even, after the journey north had commenced? And that Broadhurst, despite his religiousness, had swallowed the bait?

Bob's testimony, as far as it went, and his own loudly-expressed opinion, negatived the likelihood of such collusion. But Bob, though, was a friend of the suspected man, and, therefore, himself open to suspicion. As one way of establishing the young man's bona-fides, and of clinching the matter, Marsh proposed that Bob should go with him to Gulby, and there confront Mrs. Tyson. The latter and her daughter had remained near the scene of the accident, on account of the forthcoming inquest.

Bob agreed, and, by a train leaving Widdon at 3:30, they started together for the spot. By half-past four, Mrs. Tyson, Bessie, Bob and the inspector were closeted together in the parlor of the cottage in which the former two had found accommodation.

"Was this the lady you saw in the carriage at Euston?" Marsh asked of Bob.

Bob replied in the affirmative.

"Was this the young man who accompanied this suspected passenger?" Marsh then inquired, turning to Mrs. Tyson.

She also assented.

"Very good," said the inspector. "Now, this passenger that this young gentleman came with was the man who sat opposite the American, and who traveled with you from Euston down to Gulby? Is that so?"

"Yes; quite right."

"And this same passenger was the man whom you——" Marsh turned sharply to Bessie—"whom you saw feeling in the American's pocket?"

Bessie drew back behind her mother as she uttered a frightened "Yes."

"That's all satisfactory, then," said Marsh. "Not that there was much room for doubt before."

He then produced a photograph of the suspected man—obtained from Mrs. Broadhurst on the previous evening. This he showed to Mrs. Tyson and to Bessie, and from both obtained an admission that it was an exact portrait of their fellow passenger.

"Well," he remarked with some assurance, turning to Bob Nicholls, "I should think it's about proved by now that this friend of yours is the man we want. He's either a confederate of this American, or else he's a particularly cold-blooded thief—you can choose which. What do you say?"

To tell the truth, Bob had very little to say. The amount of incriminating evidence—ever swelling, too, in volume—was such as to reduce him to a state of dumb perplexity. His only clear feeling, at the moment, was one of foolish animus against the inspector.

He was glad when the latter took himself off, which happened shortly after. A long wait at Gulby, followed by a train journey to Warrington, and a still further wait there, were what the evening had in store for Bob; but they had the good effect of clearing his brain. For purposes of contemplation and of mental self-adjustment, there is no more favorable locality than a forlorn railway station on the first day of the week.

The Scotch mail, due in London at 3:50 a. m., called at Warrington shortly after half-past eleven. Bob, tired and dispirited, joined it at the latter station, and so returned to the place whence he started.

Inspector Marsh's telegram to Scotland Yard, giving information as to the place where Bent had stored his trunks, was received there early on the Sunday afternoon. The man who had made the abortive inquiries at Waterloo and at Charing Cross was informed of this new fact, and instructed to follow up his investigations by a visit to Euston.

From the cloak-room officials at the big North-Western station, the detective soon ascertained that trunks, similar to those of Bent's had actually been deposited there in the afternoon of Friday. So far, good. It was clear now that Bent had slipped away from Charing Cross, after only a few minutes' wait, and had come on by cab to Euston bringing his trunks with him. But when the detective tried to discover what had since transpired, he found himself again at sea.

The trunks had been taken out—this fact was quickly established—though when, and by whom, no information was forthcoming. One negative fact only could be ascertained: That they were not asked for during the early hours of Saturday morning—before six o'clock, that is. The confederate, therefore, had not immediately availed himself of his power.

Turning to the porters who wait for arrivals, the detective was lucky enough, after a time, to pick up a fresh crumb of information. One of these men, more observant or more fortunate than the rest, had noticed two such boxes being loaded on to a four-wheeler soon after eight a. m. on the Saturday. What had called his attention to the matter was the fact that the gentleman in the cab was not a passenger. He drove up in the vehicle, waited inside it while the boxes were procured and stowed away on the roof, and then he drove off. The luggage had evidently been lying in the cloak-room.

This, certainly, was a step in advance. But, considering the number of four-wheeled hacks plying within the northern part of the radius—any one of which might be the vehicle employed—the detective's task was not greatly lightened. While, if he abandoned the cabman, and turned instead to hotels—assuming (which was not certain) that the confederate had gone to a hotel—the labour in prospect became positively herculean.

The observant porter was able to furnish a good working description of the cabman—the gentleman inside, however, he scarcely saw. The detective, accordingly, making the best of his difficulty, decided to go in search of cabby.

It was not until Monday afternoon that he came across his man—a particularly broken-down specimen of the class. The gentleman (cabby said) had hailed him near King's Cross station. After obtaining the boxes at Euston, cabby had driven him into a small hotel in Pentonville road. Oh, yes, he knew the house; though he couldn't recollect the number. The detective at once engaged cabby to drive him to the same hostelry.

Once inside, the Scotland Yard man obtained speedy confirmation of the fact that he was on the confederate's trail. The gentleman in question (he was told) came in very early on the Saturday morning. He engaged a room, saying he would stay over night—perhaps longer. His boxes arrived, as stated, between 8 and 9. Oh, yes, they had labels on—but the proprietress couldn't state what was printed on the labels. The gentleman went out in the afternoon—was out a long time. When he came back, it was in a cab, which waited for him. He then said that he had altered his plans, and, having paid his bill and collected his belongings, hurriedly departed. That was all the proprietress knew.

This information was satisfactory, so far as it went. The confederate was in possession of the trunks; and his doings up to 4 o'clock on the Saturday afternoon were thus laid bare. It only remained to find out where he had migrated to when he left this Pentonville road hotel. The new place of residence was no doubt one which he counted on making permanent.

Alas! the chain of evidence, fairly continuous so far, here ended abruptly. The next link was missing; and it could no more be supplied—no matter what the detective did—than on the previous occasion at Charing Cross. Some description of the cabman who drove the man away, or some means of identifying the vehicle, was essential to further progress. And neither of these was to be had.

The proprietress was appealed to in vain—she had not noticed. The fat German boy, in the studied dress suit, who officiated as waiter, was equally ignorant. A policeman on point duty near by, and the drivers who patronized a neighboring stand, were also consulted—but with the same result. Late on the Monday evening—an hour after Inspector Marsh, following up another line of inquiry, had succeeded in running the eccentric passenger to earth—the poor detective was still endeavoring to find out what cab it was that had borne the boxes away.

(To be continued.)

A COAT IN GRAY.

Melton, Almost White, With Trimmings of Silver Fox.

There never was a woman who did not long for one very nice winter coat. And nearly every woman can have one by exercising her ingenuity. Her own time can take the place of another woman's money, if she cannot buy outright.

An old winter coat of light gray mel-

GREY AND SILVER FOX.

ton was transformed into a beautiful garment by the use of taste. The front was first turned back to form revers, and upon each was stitched a black silk braiding. The same was put upon the cuffs, and a small cape that belonged with the coat was similarly treated.

Several yards of a light gray fur imitation of silver fox, was obtained and stitched around the cape collar, cuffs and revers.

The Reason.

Guest (to waiter)—I can't drink this soup.

Waiter takes it away and brings another kind of soup.

Guest—I can't drink this soup.

Waiter, angrily, but silently, for the third time brings another kind.

Guest (aghast)—I can't drink this soup.

Waiter, furious, calls the hotel proprietor.

Proprietor (to guest)—Why can't you drink this soup?

Guest (quietly)—Because I have no spoon.—Spare Moments.

A Mad Rink.

"I'm glad," she said, with a sigh of relief, "that the suspense of the election is all over."

"Were you interested to the result?"

"Yes, indeed, I had a wager up."

"What was it?"

"If Bryan won I was to marry Jack, and if McKinley won Jack was to marry me."—Washington Star.

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Thomas Paine.

It has been said that Thomas Paine, during the revolutionary war, when all were depressed and about to give up the cause, wrote an article on a drum-head that roused our soldiers and gave them new courage. If this is true, what was the article written, and where? Though he was an infidel, he should have all credit due him.—"Fern," Page, N. D.

We do not know whether such an incident ever happened or not; but it is a fact that the writings of Thomas Paine were invaluable to the cause of the Americans. Benjamin Franklin induced him to come to this country from England because of his ability as a writer. Early in 1776 he wrote a pamphlet called "Common Sense," advocating separation from England. In this he gave all the arguments for independence, stated the clearness and force, and so plainly that all could understand them. Its effort was so powerful, instantaneous, and general that the Pennsylvania legislature voted him £500, the State university conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts, and the Philosophical society admitted him to membership.

His "Crisis" appeared at irregular intervals during the revolution, and was of great service to the cause. The first number, published in the winter of 1776, was read by Washington's order, to each regiment in the service, and did much to rouse the despondency of the general in those dark days. In 1779, while clerk of the Pennsylvania legislature, he made an urgent appeal to the people in behalf of the army, which was in extreme destitution and distress, and he subscribed his entire salary for the year to the fund raised to aid the army. The nation was profoundly grateful to Paine for his services, and soon after peace was declared Congress voted him $3,000, and the state of New York gave him a large farm in Westchester county.

Concerning an Amendment.

"Did Chester L. Long make an amendment to the Senate free coinage bill, for the free coinage of the American silver product?"—H. C. W., Arlington, Kas.

We are unable to say; and, as the bill did not pass, it can make no difference. Several suggestions were made for such an amendment, but nobody championed the matter of any importance, as it would be utterly impossible to carry out in practice any such provision.

"Selling" a Postoffice.

"Please tell me if a man wanting a postoffice appointment under McKinley and fills office on petition of the people, can he buy the present postmaster out, and get the appointment from Cleveland, and hold through McKinley's administration?"—Subscriber, Ashmore, Ill.

The postoffice department would not recognize such a bargain. If the facts were brought to the attention of the fourth assistant postmaster general, the man who bought the office would probably be turned out as soon as another man could be found to take the place.

Who Can Beat It?

"I received a letter from Carter's Furnace, East Tennessee, stating that for the last election, out of 239 votes cast, 219 were for McKinley. We are curious to know if any reader of The Blade knows of any other voting precinct which gave such a rousing majority as that? If not, we think that, wherever the 'gospel of protection and sound money is preached, this district should have at least worthy mention."

We think so, too. Can any Blade reader give an instance at the recent election of a precinct which can beat our East Tennessee friend's?

Civil Service Extension.

"At what time was the order of the President, extending the provisions of the civil service laws, issued? And did it increase the number of appointments in all departments included in the civil service?"—W. A. J., Shell Creek, Tenn.

The civil service law became operative in 1883 and since then 83,290 civil offices have been placed beyond the power of any one to use them as "political spoils" that belong to political victors. The present work in extending the classified service began under Mr. Arthur and, by his order, 16,024 places were put under the rules of the civil service, which made merit the test in holding or retaining official position. Mr. Arthur added to the number, so that when Mr. Cleveland became President, in 1885, the number of places included in the classified service was 15,573. During Mr. Cleveland's first term he increased the number by adding 7,259 places, so that when Mr. Harrison was inaugurated the number was 22,832.

Under him this number was increased so that when Mr. Cleveland became again President in 1893, there were 42,928 places that had been removed from politics. Since 1893 the number of civil positions that can be filled only after an examination of applicants has been increased to 83,290. Outside of the classified service and the operation of the civil service law there are 91,297 places, and of these 66,275 are fourth-class postmasters, which have not as yet been included in the classified service. The fourth-class postmasters are not, however, appointed by the President, but by the fourth assistant postmaster general.

This leaves the President about 42,000 offices to fill, most of which are high cabinet, consular, diplomatic and similar positions, which are posts of honor and are, as a rule, not very lucrative. There is a steady deal of effort being made to have fourth-class postmasters classified under the present law, and we believe that eventually it will be done.

Majority and Plurality.

"Please tell me the difference between 'majority' and 'plurality'?"—H. W., Fairmount, Ind.

A majority is that many more than all other candidates received for the same office; a plurality is that many more than the next highest candidate received.

For instance, suppose that in one precinct there were four candidates for the same office, and their votes were as follows:

A	500 votes
B	300 votes
C	125 votes
D	50 votes

A's plurality over B is 200, while his majority is but 25—as B, C and D received a total of 475 votes, and A but 25 votes more than all of them.

Vivisection.

"A few years ago a child who would pull the wings off a fly would be considered heartless, but in the schools here the young children must catch insects, and sometimes while yet alive pull the legs and wings off; a frog will have to lose a leg and then these children watch the heart beat. I acknowledge that vivisection is well when used by responsible people for science, but the practice with children, it only helps to make them cruel. What is your opinion?"—Subscriber, Anacostia, D. C.

Vivisection has enabled many discoveries to be made which have greatly aided the medical profession in combating disease, and in ascertaining the action of drugs. But to allow children to indulge in it is heartless and useless. It should never be resorted to except in the interests of science, and by trained and expert scientific men.

Southern Man in the Cabinet.

"We Republicans of the South and Southwest believe that resident McKinley will put a Southern man in his cabinet, and we believe further he will make choice of a native born Southerner. We have hundreds of good men who would give general satisfaction. As your paper is largely read in the West, I would like an expression of opinion from you."—T. W., Kingfisher, Okla.

We have no idea what President-elect McKinley will do. There are few cabinet positions, and dozens of men of the highest standing urged for each. We should be glad to see a good Southern Republican have a place.

Applications for Postoffices.

"Will you be kind enough to give instructions as complete as your space will allow, in making applications for postoffices, and amount of bond required of postmasters of the different classes of offices?"—M. S. T., St. Johns, O.

The first thing is to get up a petition asking your appointment, and have it signed by as many of the patrons of the office as possible, especially the business men, who have a large mail. Get testimonials from leading citizens as to your fitness, your honesty, and general uprightness of character. Above all, you should have the support of the representative from your district, as his word will go a great ways with the postoffice department in making the appointment.

Several Offices.

"What are the duties of the following officers, viz: Register of United States land office, receivers of United States land offices, Indian agents, and postoffice inspectors? Do they all come under the civil service, or either of them? If so, which one?"—"C. E.," DeWitt, N. C.

The register has control of the records of the land office, and makes all entries. The receiver is the man who handles the money paid into the office. Indian agents have full control of the Indians on the reservations. A postoffice inspector not only visits offices to inspect the accounts, see that the business is properly conducted, etc., but are detailed to hunt up thefts in offices or on routes, etc. They are under civil service rules. The other positions are not.

Silver Dollars in 1895.

"Please state how many silver dollars were coined in 1895?"—F. H. G., Homer, Ill.

In the calendar year ending December 31, 1895, there were 882,890 silver dollars coined. This year—1896—there have been over 8,000,000 coined.

Silver Certificates.

"I notice in your issue of December 3, a question asked by E. T., of Glen Roy, O., whether for each silver dollar coined in 1896 there is a silver certificate destroyed for it. Now, is it not true that all the silver bullion except the seigniorage, is represented by silver certificates, and that those dollars could not be put into circulation without calling in the certificates representing them?"—G. F. K., Cottage Grove, Ore.

There is the same old confusion of two distinct things. The bullion bought from 1878 to 1890, under the Bland law, was required to be coined as fast as bought. As a matter of convenience, that law allowed the coined silver dollars to be deposited in the Treasury, and silver certificates issued for them. So that, for all of the 378,000,000 of silver dollars coined under the Bland act, and now on deposit in the Treasury, silver certificates are out in circulation. When these silver certificates are paid into the Treasury, they are paid out again and not cancelled.

The Sherman act of 1890 provided that the silver bullion bought under its provisions were to be paid for in Treasury notes. These Treasury notes are not silver certificates. They do not represent silver in the Treasury. They are simply promises of the United States to pay a stated number of dollars in "coin."

The secretary of the Treasury has the right to coin any of the bullion bought under the Sherman law into silver dollars, to redeem them. He also has the right to coin the $51,550,000 of seigniorage. None of this bullion is represented by silver certificates. So, all the silver dollars coined out of the seigniorage belong to the government, not to holders of silver certificates, and are that much added to the circulation.

Board of Trade Transactions.

"Please state how transactions are made through commission houses upon boards of trade."—W. W., Adams, Ill.

We submitted your question to a leading commission man on the Toledo Produce Exchange, who sends us the following:

"Futures mean something to be delivered in the future, such as May wheat. Longs are those who buy first. Shorts are those who sell first and cover afterward or ship in to fill. If you wish to buy first, you send the order to buy five or ten thousand bushels of, say May wheat. We execute same at market price on receipt of order. If you wish to sell first, say sell so much, of whatever month you please. Margins are returned with the profits. All we get is ⅛ of 1 per cent commission on 5,000 bushel lots or over, here or in any other market.

"It is the same in grain or clover seed, only the amounts are different. In grain, trades are generally made in 5,000 bushel lots, or multiples thereof. In clover seed they are generally in car lots of 200 bags each, containing 500 bushels. We are also grateful for smaller favors.

"If you buy May wheat, you can sell it out any day. There would be no expense except the commission, unless you wait until May, when it would be delivered and cost carrying expenses for storage, insurance and interest to carry it.

"If you buy May wheat now, you can sell it at any time. You can buy and sell the same day or the same time if you wish. It is not necessary to wait until the contract matures. We attend to that. This is why speculation in grain is better than real estate or most commodities. You have a market every day and can close at any time, which nobody can force you to sell, as long as you keep your margin good."

Miscellaneous.

G. G. S., Clarion, Iowa: There is no book on window dressing published.

I. P., Rockland, Me.: The statement is quite correct. The flags of the other great nations have all been changed within the past century.

Subscriber, Neoga, Ill.: We are unable to give the information. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postmaster of a town there, ask him what you want to know, and ask him to hand the letter to some real estate agent to answer you.

Subscriber, Greenbrier: If you had sent your name and full postoffice address, we would have sent you a paper with an article marked answering your question. Send them, and we will be glad to send it.

JOSEPHINE NIGHT ROBE.

Something for the Girl Who Likes to Sleep in Odd Designs.

For women who do not like to sleep in the high-necked and long-sleeved nightgowns there is the Josephine night robe, which is very popular, and is said to be taken from an old print of Josephine.

The skirt of the night robe is dotted lawn, pink with black dots, washable and soft. The vest is made of two puffs of white lawn strapped with wash ribbons in deep pink. These are caught to a bow in front, and can be easily taken off when laundered. Small lapels fasten on in the same way.

JOSEPHINE'S SLEEPING ROBE.

The sleeves are ruffles of white lawn overlying each other almost to the elbows, and there is a deep ruffling at the neck.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS.

The Way the Wife of His Bosom Bought His Present.

"John," she said, when his after-dinner cup of coffee had been placed before him, "John, Christmas is coming."

"You don't say," replied the heartless man. "You surprise me; I thought it was going."

"Now, don't try to be so funny, John. You know very well what I mean."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean that it is only a little more than a month off."

"I guess you are right."

"Well, I am going to buy you a lovely present. Now, what is it you want?"

"I haven't any idea; only, of course, don't buy me any cigars, and I have two smoking jackets already."

"You'll leave it entirely to my taste, John?"

"I will, my dear; with the exceptions I have named."

"I'll get you something real nice."

Then silence, which was broken with: "And, John, dear?"

"Yes?"

"Don't you think you had better double my allowance so I can buy you something real nice?"—Chicago Times-Herald.

Bright.

"I am told she is very bright when she talks."

"Very likely. Several of her front teeth are filled with gold."—Detroit Tribune.

Nervous

People wonder why their nerves are so weak; why they get tired so easily; why they do not sleep naturally; why they have frequent headaches, indigestion and

Nervous Dyspepsia. The explanation is simple. It is found in that impure blood feeding the nerves on refuse instead of the elements of strength and vigor. Hood's Sarsaparilla feeds the nerves pure, rich blood; gives natural sleep, good digestion, is the true remedy for all nervous troubles.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. $1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25 cents.

Love in the Scale.

"How much does the baby weigh" is only another way of asking, "Is he healthy and strong?" When a baby is welcomed into the world with loving care and forethought, his chances of health and strength are increased a hundred-fold

A prospective mother cannot begin too early to look after her own health and physical condition. This is sure to be reflected in the baby. Any weakness or nervous depression, or lack of vigor on the mother's part should be overcome early during the expectant time by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which promotes the perfect health and strength of the organism specially concerned in motherhood.

It makes the coming of baby absolutely safe and comparatively free from pain; renders the mother strong and cheerful, and transmits healthy constitutional vigor to the child.

No other medicine in the world has been such an unqualified blessing to mothers and their children. It is the one positive specific for all weak and diseased conditions of the feminine organism. It is the only medicine of its kind devised for this one purpose by a trained and educated specialist in this particular field.

Mrs. F. B. Cannings, of No. 4320 Humphrey St., St. Louis, Mo., writes: "I am now a happy mother of a fine, healthy baby girl. Feel that your 'Favorite Prescription' and little 'Pellets' have done me more good than anything I have ever taken. Three months previous to my confinement I began using your medicine. I took three bottles of the 'Prescription.' Consequences were I was only in labor forty-five minutes. With my first baby I suffered 18 hours, then had to lose him. He was very delicate and only lived 12 hours. For two years I suffered untold agony, and had two miscarriages. The 'Favorite Prescription' saved both my child and myself. My baby is not yet three weeks old and I do not think I ever felt better in my life."

FUNNY FAKES.

Cruel Necessity.

"Why do you beg?" asked the kind hearted woman.

"I can't help it, ma'am," said the beggar. "My wife's a widder with five children, and they looks to me for support."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Another Version.

"An aged lady in Boston recently ripped up an old pin cushion that had been in the family for years——"

"And found 2,000 old needles in it, I suppose."

"No; she found only nine. All her children had been boys."—Chicago Record.

Pastoral.

In these mellow days of plenty,
There is fruit and game to spare;
Loads of apples—streams of cider—
And 'tis only cash that's rare.
—Detroit Free Press.

Intellectual.

"Mrs. Cheesecake, is your son doing well at college?"

"Well? He can kick a football forty yards."—Chicago Record.

Not So Important.

"Are these the portraits of members of your college foot ball team?"

"Oh, no; those are only the professors."—Chicago Record.

Sure Proof.

Wheeler—What makes you think she loves you?

Tyre—Oh, she's been hinting of late how much she likes my bicycle.—Philadelphia North American.

Not in His Line.

"Don't you enjoy these wonderful Indian summer days?"

"Can't say I do. I'm drumming for a New York mackintosh house."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Vice Versa.

"Did you bring your umbrella as a safeguard?"

"Yep. It's always sure to umbrella if I leave my rain at home."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Satisfaction.

Marble Dealer—Shall I put on the tombstone, "We Mourn Our Loss?"

Chorus of Heirs (left out of will)—Yes; and spell "Loss" with poster sheet letters.—Buffalo Times.

No Escape.

With a weary air she laid down the modern newspaper.

"I shall be thankful when 1900 comes!" she said, with a deep sigh.

"Why so?" he asked her.

"Because it will be no longer possible for modern writers to tell of this fin de siecle age?" she returned.

"Still," he said, gloomily, "there is one phrase we can never escape."

"And that?" she asked, eagerly.

"Is a fad, that," said he, "is that our dress, our manners, our social customs, our education, our knowledge, our minds—even our morals, and, by heavens! not excepting our souls—must forever and forever and forever be 'up to date!'"

It was too much, etc.

After the Call.

"My flush of hearts," said Mr. Cutte,
"Undoubtedly takes up the bets;
Your three kings made a good hand, but
'Kind hearts are more than coronets.'"

A Seasonable Change.

Now cometh the time of the year
When children throw full oft more,
And instead of "We close at 1 p. m.,"
We read, "Please close the door."

His Revenge.

"Well, I'm even with Rackey at last."

"How's that?"

"Induced him to join a foot ball team, and he's a lightweight, you know."—Detroit Free Press.

Something Wrong.

"Why do you think Bixon is either henpecked or crazy?"

"I heard him say yesterday that he really regarded his mother-in-law as an estimable woman."—Cleveland Leader.

He Gets It.

She—I think our young friend is entitled to great credit for the way he is doing.

He—Yes, and the fellow gets it. He owes more than he ever can pay.—Detroit Free Press.

A Definition.

"Why do people say 'As happy as a clam?'"

"Have you ever opened a clam shell?"

"Yes, but——"

"Well, then you must have noticed the amount of liquor it contained."—Truth.

AN EXTENDED POPULARITY. Brown's Bronchial Troches have for many years been the most popular article in use for relieving Coughs and Throat Troubles.

He Was Warned.

"Mr. Clinker," said the thrillingly beautiful heroine of this tale, as she turned her head and looked straight into the eyes of the young man who was sitting as close to her on the sofa as it was possible to get, "there are some things which even a girl of my—er—advancement will not easily brook. When you first entered this room, half an hour ago, you bowed formally as you shook hands, did not dream of calling me by my first name, and when you sat down you took a chair which was at a conventional distance away. You had me——"

"But, my dear Miss Spingler——"

"Don't interrupt me, sir! You had not been here ten minutes before your chair was six feet nearer where I sat. In another five minutes you called me dear. Shortly afterwards you deliberately sat down on the sofa next to me. It was then you attempted to take my hand. You need not deny it. You know it is too true. And now, sir——"

"Hear me, I——"

"And now, sir," repeated the young girl, her slight form trembling with emotion, her eyes blazing, her whole attitude expressive of the deepest concern, "I want you to distinctly understand that if you should so far forget yourself as to attempt to kiss me, you do so at your own peril!"—Harper's Bazar.

Still Writing.

"I am really delighted at the interest my boy Tommy is taking in his writing," said Mrs. Hickleby. "He spends two hours a day at it."

"Really? How did you get him to do it?"

"Oh, I told him to write me out a list of everything he wanted for Christmas, and he is still at it."—Harper's Bazar.

Fortune Telling.

"You will be very poor until you are 35 years of age."

Impecunious Man (eagerly)—And after that?"

Fortune Teller—You will get used to it.—New York Herald.

A Surer Sign.

"I think Julia and Jack are engaged."

"Why? Does she pick lint off his coat collar?"

"No; she has quit."

OLC Swine On Time The Fittest Applicant in Each Locality. L. B. Silver Co. Cleveland O.

WOMEN WHO BOX.

MANLY ART NOW PRESCRIBED AS A TONIC BY DOCTORS.

Advantages Which It Offers to Women Above Other Forms of Athletics—The Style of Boxing Practiced.

If any one doubts the zest for physical recuperation and refreshment evinced by a portion of this community, let him visit the natatorium on a frosty morning and see the women diving and ducking and floating about in the big expanse of water, regardless of the fact that their fellow creatures outside are tucked up to the chin in fur. Or let him look in at the gymnasium morning classes and see the pupils, some sober-going housekeepers, some butterflies of fashion, tumbling about on the mattresses, rowing in the wonderful automatic rowing machines, swinging off high places, running round the galleries, or, strangest of all, having a bout with the gloves.

Physicians have adopted what public opinion formerly scouted at, and are sending their patients to the boxing master to get self-poise and grace and symmetry, and, most important of all, the strength that comes with this art.

"Women get tired of ordinary gymnastics. They won't keep them up. There is no real motive to chain their interest," says medical authority, "but there is a rivalry about boxing that fascinates while it invigorates."

Certain it is that since boxing has not been prescribed, who have no need of a doctor's services and possess body and brains in perfect tone, have discovered this subtle charm in pugilism and are learning to guard and lead and duck and feint under the guidance of the most expert instructors of the day. They are not learning boxing in the aggressive John L. Sullivan sense, but in an idealized, chivalrous interpretation of the term.

"This is all nonsense about women boxing," says one lifelong advocate of the sport. "Women can't box. You hit a woman in the chest or in the wind, in professional phrase, and you knock the breath out of her, or else you bring on some horrible disease, cancer, or the like. Some women, masculine by nature and masculine in build, make fair fighters, but the average woman, the woman of every-day life—pshaw!" and he looks his incredulity.

"It is for these very weak, domesticated, average women that I would recommend boxing," says a mild-mannered trainer to whom this criticism is repeated. "There is no sport or game in all the calendar that has such admirable qualities. The successful boxer must have the feet of a dancing master and the strength of a Hercules. He must understand the principles of endeavor and the principles of attitude, and have his brain in entire harmony with his body.

"In boxing the exercise is far more evenly distributed than in ball playing, and that is saying a good deal. Each muscle and nerve in the body moves either actively or as supporting. In the early series of lessons the boxer thinks first and acts afterward. When he becomes proficient brain and muscles move almost simultaneously; the intent, purpose, and execution become identical.

"I do not recommend women to learn the art as a means of self-defence, because I do not think them likely to need it in this age, although I have known pugilists to train their fair sisters with that very emergency in view. I recommend boxing for women who have athletic tastes, because they can derive untold benefit from it and get more out of it than from other pursuits in the same line.

"Does it help the breathing? Well! rather. If a woman goes to lift up anything beyond her ordinary strength she will, naturally, take a good breath first. It is so in boxing. 'Head up!' 'elbows in!' 'toes out!' 'chest expanded!' are the first directions, and certainly nothing insures a better carriage. All the women I have taught box gracefully. It is good to see them. They don't give ugly blows. It is more the intent, the purpose, the quick avoidance, the intuitive alertness that I cultivate than the direct punching and hitting. They hit each other, of course, but not hard enough to hurt—just sufficiently to gain the score. Head, arms, feet, legs are all brought into play. The eye is trained along with the rest, and all sensation is enlightened and intensified. I had one pupil, the niece of a judge, who really took in my ideas wonderfully.

"The word of women is that their hands get sore and they have to stop," said a professional boxer, when asked for his views in regard to the training of women. "I noticed that with three of my pupils, and they were promising, too. In my day I have taught for months at a time ten of the nicest ladies in New York, and three or four of them have kept up the exercise since. You can never get a woman to move her legs, though, as a man can."

"How long does it take to teach a recruit?"

"Six months with a half hour's lesson a day will insure tolerable proficiency. Boxing is no easy art to be acquired in a few lessons. Of course the principles, the rudiments, can be learned in a dozen lessons, but only practice and innate knowledge and activity can make an expert. It's just like learning the piano. A person may learn the notes and the scales and all the rest of it, but if it isn't in him to be a piano player, he won't be one, no matter how much pains he takes. If a boxer hasn't got the natural vim and go and finish in his body and lends of muscles, he may try all of his days and fail to be effective.

"I believe that boxing will be elevated to its rightful place in the catalogue of sports one of these days," said an ardent admirer of the game. "It will cease to be inevitably associated with the prize fight and the drinking saloon, and come to be regarded as refined and healthful and inspiring. Now the mere mention of a boxer conjures up the idea of a bully, or a rowdy, or an ignorant, pug-headed braggart. If people would examine dispassionately the methods and movements of fighters like Jem Mace they would find much to admire. His fighting was a wonderful display of skill, science and manliness of high finish and precision. Every principle of boxing is prohibitory and not stimulatory. Every additional rule added to the code makes the standard higher. 'Always get your blow to its mark, even if you receive a counter in return; it will teach you to hit quicker and guard better next time.' 'Never hit below the belt.' 'Never do this, never do that.' It is always prohibitory.

"The practice which some boxers have adopted of hitting with the inside of the hand is regarded as barbarous from the ideal standard. A blow should always be delivered with the back of the hand, where the glove is padded, and it will do less injury. The boxer who delivers a blow from the inside of the hand is in a totally different attitude from the ideal boxer. The whole expression of his body and arm is changed. He has to stand awkwardly and assume a cunning curved-in posture. Long ago in Roman days the mailed glove, the cestus, was used to box with, an appliance that made the blow more telling and cruel. Later, when the sport was introduced into London, in 1720, the cestus had been abandoned. Many of the knuckles were resorted to. Later still, as people grew more tolerant, a glove was contrived that would mitigate the blow and render it almost harmless. The lining with the unpadded portion of the glove, the palm, is contrary to this evolution of gentler methods, a reversion to the old-time heathenism. There is much that is artistic and interesting about a personal contest man to man without the aid of artificial appliance of weapon of any kind. It is not a pastime that should be decried, but rather it should be upheld, and should be taken out of the hands of the ignorant, who would debase it, and have no conception of its possibilities.

"I have had men, and women, too, as pupils who have told me they were surprised to find how inspiring a sport it was, and how much there was in it to learn. These were people who were affable in spite of their high social position, and did not hesitate to express their views frankly. Have they kept up their interest? Some have, and often they look in to have a spar with me. The term sparring is probably a more faithful description of the style of boxing that the women affect than the other. It is lighter—less actual. I am encouraged sometimes to think that the sport is actually winning increased favor. There are five professors altogether in this city who give private lessons, as I do. We make a comfortable living, that looks as though the field was fertile."—New York Sun.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Disgraced Forever.

Old Goalpost—You ungrateful scamp! Did I send you to college to while away your time and in the end fail to win the honors when they were right in your grasp?

Young Goalpost—Father, forgive me. I tried hard to kick the goal, but the wind was against me, and, oh, heavens! the ball fell two feet short.—Philadelphia North American.

Still Dissatisfied.

"Well," remarked the wife of the man who had changed his mind about coming to congress, "you have a clear conscience, anyhow."

"I know that," was the comfortless reply, "but a clear conscience isn't what I was running for."—Washington Star.

OLC Swine On Time The Fittest Applicant in Each Locality. L. B. Silver Co. Cleveland O.

A BALLAD OF CANTON TOWN.

"O, Marcus!" quoth the major,
One bright December day,
"There are too many people
Who have too much to say!
My spirit is a-weary,
I would I were away!

"There was a time, O Marcus,
When people came in throngs,
With drums and waving banners,
With trumpets and with gongs;
They came with words of promise
And eke they came with songs.

"Why, then a thousand persons
Or Canton's silence broke
And out of every corner
The sleeping echoes woke—
Yes, thousands after thousands,
For whom just one man spoke!

"But now all that is altered;
Still anxious thousands come,
But there's no note of warning,
No sound of fife or drum;
They come tiptoe to Canton
And none of them is dumb.

"Each speaks and, speaking, whispers,
Till in my ears the sound
Is as of bees that, buzzing,
Fly angrily around,
And neither night nor daytime
Is quiet to be found.

"Then out of Canton lead me,"
The major said to Mark:
"Far from the whispering shadows
That people the old Stark!
O, take me out of glory
And cover me with dark!"

Then up rose noble Marcus
And to Chicago fled.
"It may have office-seekers,
But I've the word of Stead
That there the dark is thickest
In all the land," he said.
—Columbus Dispatch.

THE GIRL WHO RIDES.

Something Warm and Sensible for a Cold Winter's Day.

For horseback riding the Meltons and broadcloths are worn. Custom has laid it down that the girl rider shall dress thus and so, but this fall she is dressing to suit her own new ideas.

A riding coat of pale amber broadcloth made its appearance in Central Park one fine morning when the frost

A NEW RIDING HABIT.

was bringing down the old reddened leaves. The coat covered the dress and was lined with a deep wood-colored silk. The collar was of the same silk. This wood color is a warm brown that has almost a tinge of scarlet in it.

As the rider hastened her brown horse there peeped forth a skirt of true McKinley plaid. It was scarlet and green cloth made in riding habit style, scant and not very long. Underneath there were black trousers as are now worn under all riding habits.

A deep brown derby and tan gloves finished a riding habit which for completeness will do a great deal toward reconciling the horseback girl to her steed in the period when the bicycle is the artistic daughter of the house. These had evidently been put on the bed in a spare room and covered with a sheet on some occasion and when the room was prepared for a guest the sheet was not removed. I took out the sketches, made up the bed and slept in comfort, and as this was also an oversight that reflected somewhat on the housekeeping, I again said nothing about my experience."

And what bishop was it who found himself in a guest room, stretched upon a rack, and got up to withdraw, from between upper and under mattress, his hostess' occasional silver, stored there while waiting restoration to its usual abiding place in bank safe or vault, and, of course, forgotten when the room was to be occupied—one could hardly say made ready for occupancy?—New York Press.

His Father Was a Jingoist.

Teacher (trying to inculcate a moral)—Now, children, why was it the lions would not touch Daniel?

Johnny (whose father is a politician)—'Cause dey was 'fraid of gettin' der tails twisted.—Buffalo Times.

Good Reason.

"Where do we go this evening?"

"Why, to the Slocums, of course. What a memory you have! And don't forget to take your umbrella."

"Not much I won't."

"Why not?"

"It's Slocum's umbrella."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Thos. Slater has a message for every man on page 2. Don't fail to read it.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

What is the Matter With the Mare?

W. E. N., Missouri: The "mumps" in your mare, to which you refer, were no doubt the result of being overheated at the time to which you refer. She suffered from congestion of the lungs. The evidences of pain now exhibited by your mare when going down hill would indicate that she is suffering from laminitis, or founder, superinduced by gorging herself with corn. Laminitis is brought on by eating too much corn or other food, overwork, concussion to the feet, purgatives, as well as other causes. Founders is usually a metastatic disease—that is, originates in some other part of the body. The best you can do now is to stop feeding corn for a month. Give bran mashes if the bowels are constipated until they work properly, but be careful not to get the bowels too loose. Feed sweet hay and oats, but no barley. Give this for about five days: Chlorate of potash, ½ oz., powdered digitali leaves, 30 grains. Afterward for three days give nitrate of potash ½ oz. The above will reduce the "mumps." Go carefully over your mare's feet, feel if they are unnaturally warm. Watch her movements to see if she favors one foot more than another. If so, she is suffering from laminitis. In chronic cases of this kind, there is but little hope for a permanent cure, but recent cases may be cured. It may be in one foot or all her feet. Put the affected foot or feet in a bucketful or tubful of fairly hot water for half an hour. Then rub the feet and leg dry. Do this for a week. After each bath wrap leg or legs from fetlock to knee with flannel. If the lameness continues after this, a little fly-blister rubbed around the coronet will do good. Before commencing treatment the shoes should be taken off and the mare stood on a dirt floor. She should have plenty of soft bedding at night; and should be well blanketed to prevent chill. A little exercise each day will be good for her, but this should not be on a rough road. If you have to work the mare do not give her hard hauling to do, and do nothing at any time to excite her. To tell the sex of geese, the female has a coarse voice, while that of the male is fine. The male is heavier than the female on the neck, and is more masculine in appearance.

Mange in Horse.

J. W. P., West Virginia: Your horse has a disease known as Mange. Wash the part affected with soft soap and warm water after first rubbing with lard or oil. Then apply the following once a day: Flour of sulphur, 4 ozs.; oil of turpentine, 4 ozs.; tar, 8 ozs. Wash oil every other day and reapply the mixture. The stall must be well cleaned, and all the hair burned or the disease which is in the form of mange lice will communicate itself to other animals.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Timely Remedies.

It is easier to manage disease if the first symptoms are attended to. Many a sad case of contagion has been prevented, and the safety of the entire flock has been secured by a timely remedy. Following is a partial list of the way to treat sickness when it starts:

Diarrhoea—Ten drops of camphorated spirits in a pint of drinking water.

Costiveness—Give plenty of green food and put ten drops of sulphate of magnesia to a pint of drinking water.

Croup bound—Give a tablespoonful of castor oil.

Bronchitis—Put ten drops each of sulphuric and nitric acid in a quart of drinking water.

Colpes—Give the bird daily until it recovers a small piece of camphor about the size of a grain of wheat.

Rheumatism—Bathe the legs with strong liniment.

Bumble foot—Paint the corn freely with a tincture of iodine.

Scaly legs—Wash the legs with castile soap and warm water, and then anoint with an ointment made of equal parts melted lard and kerosene oil.

Frosted comb and wattles—Bathe with cold water and anoint with vaseline, cosmoline or glycerine.

Heavy colds—Five drops of tincture of aconite in a teaspoonful of water twice a day.—Ohio Poultry Journal.

Black Minorcas.

Why have Leghorns so long been called egg-machines, when that title properly belongs to the Black Minorcas, the most prolific layers of the largest eggs?

This noble breed, though steadily gaining in popularity, is not sufficiently known; its merits are not properly understood.

It is not my wish at this time to enter into a long recital of the many qualities of the Black Minorcas, but simply to state in brief a few reasons why it is a valuable breed to keep as a money producer:

1. They are very liberal layers, acknowledging no superiors.

2. They lay a very large egg, running easily five to the pound.

3. As chicks they are hardy, active and easy to rear.

4. As fowls, they possess a strong, healthy constitution, remarkably free from disease.

5. Pullets are very precocious, with ordinary care, laying when five months old.

6. They are easy to fatten, and, when properly fed, present a well rounded breast, heavily cutting, juicy, tender, well-flavored flesh.

7. Old fowls are easily fattened and made tender, and are very good size.

8. Always active, they make good foragers when allowed unlimited range, and withal are gentle, easily tamed and stand close confinement admirably.

9. They have a good, solid frame, capable of carrying increased weight, and judicious breeding should add a pound to the present standard weight.

Minorca breeders should wake up to their opportunities and prepare for an aggressive campaign. Let them band together to make up the Minorca exhibit at New York next December, a memorable one. Why not make up a special purse, calculated to attract Minorcas from all parts of the country?—G. P. Reynaud, in American Fancier.

Age to Market Lambs.

At the state institute held in Columbus, O. H. P. Miller of this state, read a paper on "growing mutton," in which he said:

"There is a limited period in the life of animals for growth. Every factor in the problem of producing mutton, points toward earlier marketing. To papaphrase a familiar adage, it is the early lamb that gets the prize. An eight-weks old lamb, if in condition and in 'season,' comands the highest price per pound ever attainable. A very narrow limit of time at this period, and the height of the fat in prices passed. A lamb not meeting the requirements of the market at that period must pass on into a cheaper class, not to find sale until another season opens which calls for a lamb three to five months old, but at a less price per pound.

"The lambs sold at four months of age do not, as a rule, bring as much as those sold at two months old. If, again, the age is doubled or tripled, the market into which they must go, is such that in spite of her gain in size, they will bring little if any more per head than at either of the former prices. This may be continued until we have the sheep at its maximum weight and the price per head does not vary greatly.

"There is an impressive lesson in this that has not found general application in the growing of mutton. The lesson is not, however, that all mutton should be marketed in the form of eight-weeks-old lambs. Not all sheep raisers are rightly situated respecting market, or equipped in skill or stable accommodations for producing this class of mutton. But this teaching is of general application, that the younger a sheep can be marketed when grown under the most economical conditions for meeting a certain market for choice form, the larger will be the profit. To illustrate again by my neighbor's hogs: He feeds them long through one winter, past a June market, and he says that don't pay. I have thought that if I were to work hard, I would never go into the hog business; I should go into the pig business. Something similar to this is what men must do who find that sheep don't pay. Quit raising sheep and go to raising lambs."

Influence of Salt on Seeds.

Experiments have been carried out by Brustin on the subject of the influence of salts on the sprouting of seeds, and the results are thus described: The experiments were tried in the following manner. Fifteen seeds were placed for twenty-four hours in solution of one to two per cent of the different salts, and then compared, in respect to germination, with fifteen other similar seeds kept for the same time in pure water. At the end of four days all these last had sprouted, while the others gave variable results. With potassium nitrate the fifteen seeds sprouted in equal degree, while with sprouted chloride only one sprouted. Sodium chloride exercised a marked injurious effect, and so did potassium phosphate, while potassium permanganate had only a very weak effect. Chloride of iron in a two per cent solution destroyed all germination; with one per cent solution only two of the seeds sprouted."

The Apiary in Winter.

The expert bee-keeper watches the apiary in winter as well as in summer. True, the bees should not be disturbed if they are doing well, for if a strong healthy colony is rudely disturbed some bees will leave the cluster and, perchance, the hive. If the weather is cold enough to chill the many of these will perish. Another bad result of such a disturbance is, that from some instinctive cause the bees fill themselves with honey, and if a prolonged period of arctic weather follows and prevents them from taking a cleansing flight the colony will become unhealthy, which causes its loss entirely.

But these caution

Talmage's Sermon.

MAKE-BELIEVE RELIGION.

"Faith Without Works is Dead," James II, 20.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—This subject of Dr. Talmage cuts through the conventionalities, and spares nothing of that make-believe religion which is all talk and no practice. The text chosen was James ii, 20: "Faith without works is dead."

The Roman Catholic church has been charged with putting too much stress upon good works and not enough upon faith. I charge Protestantism with putting not enough stress upon good works as connected with salvation. Good works will never save a man, but if a man have not good works, he has not real faith, and no genuine religion. There are those who depend upon the fact that they are all right inside, while their conduct is wrong outside. Their religion for the most part is made up of talk—vigorous talk, fluent talk, boastful talk, perpetual talk. They will entertain you by the hour in telling you how good they are. They come up to such a higher standard that they have no patience with ordinary Christians in the plain discharge of their duty. As near as I can tell, this ocean craft is most sail and very little tonnage. Foretopmast, staysail, foretopmast studding sail, maintopsail, mizzentopsail—everything from flyingjib to mizzen-spanker, but making no useful voyage. Now the world has got tired of this, and it wants a religion that will work into all the circumstances of life. We do not want a new religion, but the old religion applied in all possible directions.

Yonder is a river with steep and rocky banks, and it roars like a young Niagara as it rolls on over its rough bed. It does nothing but talk about itself all the way from its source in the mountain to the place where it empties into the sea. The banks are so steep that the cattle cannot come down to drink, and it does not run one fertilizing rill into the adjoining field. It has not one grist-mill or factory on either side. It sulks in wet weather with chilling fogs. No one cares when that river is born among the rocks, and no one cares when it dies into the sea. But yonder is another river, and it mosses its banks with the warm tides, and it rocks with floral lullaby the water lilies asleep on its bosom. It invites herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and conveys of birds to come there and drink. It has three grist mills on one side and six cotton factories on the other. It is the wealth of two hundred miles of luxuriant farms. The birds of heaven chanted when it was born in the mountains, and the ocean shipping will press in from the sea to hail it as it comes down from the Atlantic coast. The one river is a man who lives for himself. The other river is a man who lives for others.

Do you know how the site of the ancient city of Jerusalem was chosen? There were two brothers who had adjoining farms, the one brother had a large family, the other had no family. The brother with a large family said: "There is my brother with no family; he must be lonely, and I will try to cheer him up, and I will take some of the sheaves from my field in the night time and set them over on his farm and say nothing about it." The other brother said: "My brother has a large family, and it is very difficult for him to support them, and I will help him along, and I will take some of the sheaves from my farm in the night time and set them over on his farm, and say nothing about it."

So the work of transference went on night after night and night after night; but every morning things seemed to be just as they were, for though sheaves had been subtracted from each farm, sheaves had also been added, and the brothers were perplexed and could not understand. But one night the brothers happened to meet while making this generous transference, and the spot where they met was so sacred that it was chosen as the site of the city of Jerusalem. If that tradition should prove unfounded it will nevertheless stand as a beautiful allegory, setting forth the idea that wherever a kindly and generous and loving act is performed that is the spot fit for some temple of commemoration.

I have often spoken to you about faith, but this morning I speak to you about works, for "faith without works is dead." I think you will agree with me in the statement that the great want of this world is more practical religion. We want practical religion to go into all merchandise. It will not allow a man to say that a thing was made in one factory when it was made in another. It will not allow the merchant to say that a watch was manufactured in Geneva, Switzerland, when it was manufactured in Massachusetts. It will not allow the merchant to say that wine came from Madeira when it came from California. Practical religion will walk along by the store shelves and tear off all the tags that make the misrepresentation. It will not allow the merchant to say that is pure coffee, when dandelion root and chicory and other ingredients go into it. It will not allow him to say that is pure sugar when there are in it sand and ground glass.

When practical religion gets its full swing in the world it will go down the street, and it will come to that shoe store and rip off the fictitious soles of many a fine looking pair of shoes, and show that it is pasteboard sandwiched between the sound leather. And this practical religion will go right into a grocery store, and it will pull out the plug of all the adulterated syrups, and it will dump into the ash barrel in front of the store the cassia bark that is sold for cinnamon, and the brickdust that is sold for cayenne pepper; and it will shake out the Prussian blue from the tea leaves, and it will sift from the flour plaster of Paris and bonedust and soapstone, and it will by chemical analysis separate the one quart of water from the few honest drops of cow's milk and it will throw out the live animalcules from the brown sugar.

There has been so much adulteration of articles of food that it is an amazement to me that there is a healthy man or woman in America. Heaven only knows what they put into the spices and into the sugars and into the butter and into the apothecary drug. But chemical analysis and the microscope have made wonderful revelations. The board of health in Massachusetts analyzed a great amount of what was called pure coffee and found in it not one particle of coffee. In England there is a law that forbids the putting of alum in bread. The public authorities examined fifty-one pastiges of bread, and found them all guilty. The honest physician, writing a prescription, does not know but that it may bring death instead of health to his patient, because there may be one of the drugs weakened by a cheaper article, and another drug may be in full force, and so the prescription may have just the opposite effect intended. Oil of wormwood warranted pure from Boston was found to have 4 per cent of resin and alcohol and chloroform. Scammony is one of the most valuable medical drugs. It is very rare, very precious. It is the sap or the gum of a tree or a bush in Syria. The root of the tree is exposed, and incision is made into the root, and then shells are placed at this incision to catch the sap or the gum as it exudes. It is very precious, this scammony. But the peasant mixes it with a cheaper material; then it is taken to Aleppo, and the merchant there mixes it with a cheaper material; then it comes on to the wholesale druggist in London or New York and he mixes it with a cheaper material; then it comes to the retail druggist, and he mixes it with a cheaper material, and by the time the poor sick man gets it into his bottle it is ashes and chalk and sand, and some of what has been called pure scammony after analysis has been found to be no scammony at all.

Now, practical religion will yet rectify all this. It will go to those hypocritical professors of religion who got a "corner" in corn and wheat in Chicago and New York, sending prices up and up until they were beyond the reach of the poor, keeping these breadstuffs in their own hands, or controlling them until the prices going up and up and up, they were after awhile, ready to sell, and they sold out, making themselves millionaires in one or two years—trying to fix the matter up with the Lord by building a church or a university or a hospital—deluding themselves with the idea that the Lord would be so pleased with the gift he would forget the swindle. Now, as such a man may not have any liturgy in which to say his prayers, I will compose for him one which he practically is making: "Oh, Lord, we, by getting a 'corner' in breadstuffs, swindled the people of the United States out of $10,000,000, and made suffering all up and down the land, and we would like to compromise this matter with thee. Thou knowest it was a scaly job, but then it was smart. Now, here we compromise it. Take 1 per cent of the profits, and with that 1 per cent you can build an asylum for these poor miserable ragmuffins of the street, and I will take a yacht and go to Europe, forever and ever. Amen!"

Ah! my friends, if a man hath gotten his estate wrongfully and he build a line of hospitals and universities from here to Alaska, he cannot atone for it. After awhile the man who has been getting a "corner" in wheat dies, and then Satan gets a "corner" in him. He goes into a great, long black Friday. There is a "break" in the market. According to Wall street parlance, he wiped others out, and now he is himself wiped out. No collaterals on which to make a spiritual loan. Eternal defalcation.

But this practical religion will not only rectify all merchandise; it will also rectify all mechanism, and all toil. A time will come when a man will work as faithfully by the job as he does by the day. You say when a thing is slightingly done "Oh, that was done by the job." You can tell by the swiftness or slowness with which a hackman drives whether he is hired by the hour or by the excursion.

If he is hired by the hour he drives very slowly, so as to make as many hours as possible. If he is hired by the excursion, he whips up the horses so as to get around and get another customer. All styles of work have to be inspected. Ships inspected, horses inspected, machinery inspected. Boss to watch the journeyman. Capitalist coming down unexpectedly to watch the boss. Conductor of a city car sounding the punch bell to prove his honesty as a passenger hands to him a clipped ticket. All things must be watched and inspected. Imperfections in the wood covered with putty. Garments warranted to last until you put them on the third time. Shoddy in all kinds of clothing. Chromos. Pinchbeck. Diamonds for a dollar and a half. Bookbinding that holds on until you read the third chapter. Spavined horses, by skilfull dose of jockeys, for several days made to look spry. Wagon tires poorly put on. Horses poorly shod. Plastering that cracks, without any provocation and falls off. Plumbing that needs to be plumbed. Imperfect car wheel that halts the whole train with a hot box. So little practical religion in the mechanism of the world. I tell you, my friends, the law of man will never rectify these things. It will be the all-pervading influence of the practical religion of Jesus Christ that will make the change for the better.

Yes, this practical religion will also go into agriculture, which is proverbially honest, but needs to be rectified, and it will keep the farmer from scolding to the city market veal that is too young to kill, and when the farmer farms on shares, it will keep the man who does the work from making his half three-fourths, and it will keep the farmer from building his post and rail fence on his neighbor's premises, and it will make him shelter his cattle in the winter storm, and it will keep the old elder from working on Sunday afternoon in the new ground where nobody sees him. And this practical religion will hover over the house, and over the barn, and over the field, and over the orchard.

Yes, this practical religion of which I speak will come into the learned professions. The lawyer will feel his responsibility in defending innocence and arraigning evil, and expounding the law and it will keep him from charging for briefs he never wrote, and for pleas he never made, and for percentages he never earned, and from robbing widow and orphan because they are defenseless. Yes, this practical religion will come into the physician's life, and he will feel his responsibility as the conservator of the public health, a profession honored by the fact that Christ himself was a physician. And it will make him honest, and when he does not understand a case he will say so, not trying to cover up lack of diagnosis with ponderous technicalities, or send the patient to a reckless drug store because the apothecary happens to pay a percentage on the prescriptions sent. And this practical religion will come to the school teacher, making her feel her responsibility in preparing our youth for usefulness and for happiness and for honor, and will keep her from giving a sly box to a dull head, chastising him for what he cannot help, and sending discouragement all through the after years of a lifetime. This practical religion will also come to the newspaper men, and it will help them in the gathering of the news, and it will help them in setting forth the best interests of society, and it will keep them from putting the sins of the world in larger type than its virtues, and its mistakes than its achievements, and it will keep them from misrepresenting interviews with public men, and from starting suspicions that never can be allayed; and will make them stanch friends of the oppressed instead of the oppressor.

Yes, this religion, this practical religion, will come and put its hand on what is called good society, elevated society, successful society, so that people will have their expenditures within their income, and they will exchange the hypocritical "not at home" for the honest explanation "too tired," or "too busy to see you," and will keep innocent reception from becoming intoxicated conviviality.

Yea, there is great opportunity for missionary work in what are called the successful classes of society. In some of the cities it is no rare thing now to see a fashionable woman intoxicated in the street, or the rail car, or the restaurant. The number of fine ladies who drink too much is increasing. Perhaps you may find her at the reception in most exalted company, but she has made too many visits to the wine room, and now her eye is glassy, and after awhile her cheek is unnaturally flushed, and then she falls into fits of excruciating laughter about nothing, and then she offers sickening flatteries, telling some homely man how well he looks, and then she is helped into the carriage, and by the time the carriage gets to her home it takes the husband and the coachman to get her upstairs. The report is, she was taken suddenly ill at a German. Ah! no. She took too much champagne, and mixed liquors, and got drunk. That was all.

Yea, this practical religion will have to come in and fix up the marriage relation in America. There are members of churches who have too many wives and too many husbands. Society needs to be expurgated, and washed, and fumigated, and Christianized. We want this practical religion not only to take hold of what are called the lower classes, but to take hold of what are called the higher classes. The trouble is that people have an idea they can do all their religion on Sunday with hymn book, and prayer book, and liturgy, and some of them sit in church rolling up their eyes as though they were ready for translation, when their Sabbath is bounded on all sides by an inconsistent life, and while you are expecting to come out from under their arms the wings of an angel, there come out from their forehead the horns of a beast.

There has got to be a new departure in religion. I do not say a new religion. Oh, no; but the old religion brought to new appliances. In our time we have had the daguerreotype, and the ambrotype, and the photograph; but it is the same old sun, and these arts are only new appliances of the old sunlight. So this glorious gospel is just what we want to photograph the image of God on our soul and daguerreotype it on another soul. Not a new gospel, but the old gospel put to work. In our time we have had the telegraphic invention and the telephonic invention, and the electric light invention; but they are all children of old electricity, an element that the philosophers burned at long while known much about. So this electric gospel needs to dash its light on the eyes and ears and souls of men, and to becomes a telephonic medium to make the deaf here; a telegraphic medium to dart invitation and warning to all nations; an electric light to illuminate the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Not a new gospel, but the old gospel doing a new work.

Now you say, "That is a very beautiful theory, but is it possible to take one's religion into all the avocations and businesses of life?" "Yes, and I will give you some specimens. Medical doctors who took their religion into every-day life: Dr. John Abercrombie, of Aberdeen, the greatest Scottish physician of his day, his book on "Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord," no more wonderful than his book on "The Philosophy of the Moral Feelings," and often kneeling at the bedside of his patients to commend them to God in prayer. Dr. John Brown of Edinburgh, immortal as an author, dying under the benediction of the sick of Edinburgh; myself remembering him as he sat in his study in Edinburgh trying to talk to me about Christ, and his hope of heaven. And a score of Christian family physicians in Washington just as good as they were.

Lawyers who carried their religion into their profession: Lord Cairns, the queen's adviser for many years the highest legal authority in Great Britain—Lord Cairns, every summer in his vacation preaching as an evangelist among the poor of his country. John McLean, judge of the Supreme Court of the United States and president of the American Sunday School Union, feeling more satisfaction in that latter office than in the former. And scores of Christian lawyers as eminent in the church of God as they are eminent at the bar.

Merchants who took their religion into every-day life: Arthur Tappan, decided in his day because he established that system by which we come to find out the commercial standing of business men, starting that entire system, decided for it then, himself, as I knew him well, in moral character A1. Monday mornings inviting to a room in the top of his storehouse the clerks of his establishment, asking them about their worldly interests and their spiritual interests, then giving out a hymn, leading in prayer, giving them a few words of good advice, asking them what church they attended on the Sabbath, what the text was, whether they had any especial troubles of their own. Arthur Tappan, I never heard his eulogy pronounced. I pronounce it now. And other merchants just as good. William E. Dodge in the iron business, Moses H. Grinnell in the shipping business, Peter Cooper in the glue business. Scores of men, just as good as they were.

Farmers who take their religion into their occupation: Why, this minute their horses and wagons stand around all the meeting houses in America. They began this day by a prayer to God, and when they get home at noon, after they have put their horses up, will offer a prayer to God at the table, seeking a blessing, and next summer there will be in their fields not one dishonest head of rye, not one dishonest ear of corn, not one dishonest apple. Worshiping God to-day away up among the Berkshire Hills, or away down amid the lagoons of Florida, or away out amid the mines of Colorado, or along the banks of the Potomac, and the Raritan, where I knew them better, because I went to school with them.

Mechanics who took their religion into their occupations: James Brindley, the famous millwright; Nathaniel Bowditch, the famous ship chandler; Elihu Burritt, the famous blacksmith, and hundreds and thousands of strong arms which have made the hammer and the saw and the adze and the drill and the ax sound in the grand march of our nation's industries.

Give your heart to God and then fill your life with good works. Consecrate to him your store, your shop, your banking house, your factory, and your home. They say no one will hear it. God will hear it. That is enough. You hardly know of any one else than Wellington as connected with the victory at Waterloo; but he did not do the hard fighting. The hard fighting was done by the Somerset cavalry and the Ryland regiments, and Kemp's infantry, and the Scotch Grays, and the Life Guards. Who cares, if only the day was won?

In the latter part of the last century a girl in England became a kitchen maid in a farm house. She had many styles of work and much hard work. Time rolled on, and she married the son of a weaver of Halifax. They were industrious, they saved money after awhile to build them a home. On the morning of the day when they were to enter that home, the young wife arose at 4 o'clock, entered the apartment unobserved, knelt down, consecrated the place to God, and there made this solemn vow: "O Lord, if thou wilt bless me in this place, the poor shall have a share of it." Time rolled on and a fortune rolled in. Children grew up around them and they all became affluent. Once a member of parliament, in a public place declared that his success came from that prayer of his mother in the dooryard. All of them were affluent. Four thousand hands in the factories. They built dwelling houses for laborers at cheap rents, and where they were invalid and could not pay they had the houses for nothing. One of these sons came to this country, admired our parks, went back, bought land, opened a great public park, and made it a present to the city of Halifax, England. They endowed an orphanage, they endowed two almshouses. All England has heard of the generosity and the good works of the Crosslerys. Moral: Consecrate to God your small means and your humble surroundings, and you will have larger means and grander surroundings. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." Have faith in God by all means, but remember that faith without works is dead."

On the Tiles.

We have no objection to "every dog having its day," but what we do object to is every cat having its night.—Fun.

THE CHANGE OF LIFE.

INTELLIGENT WOMEN PREPARE FOR THE TRYING ORDEAL.

A Time When Women Are Susceptible to Many Dread Diseases.

The anxiety felt by women as the "change of life" draws near, is not without reason.

When her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy, or congestion of any organ, it is at this period likely to become active and with a host of nervous irritations, make life a burden. Cancer often shows itself, and does its destructive work.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, headache, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, dizziness, etc., are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life where woman's great change may be expected. Thousands at this critical time consult Mrs. Pinkham, and conduct their habits according to her advice, and with the Vegetable Compound go through that distressing time with perfect safety and comfort. Mrs. W. L. Day, of Bettsville, Ohio, says:—

"When all else failed, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound saved my life. It carried me through the change of life all right, and I am now in good health. It also cured my husband of kidney trouble."

THE BRIGHT LITTLE GIRL.

Her blue eyes they beam and they twinkle,
Her lips have made smiling more fair;
On cheek and on brow there's no wrinkle,
But thousands of curls in her hair.

She's little—you don't wish her taller;
Just half through the teens in her age;
And baby or lady to call her
Were something to puzzle a sage!

Her walk is far better than dancing;
She speaks as another might sing;
And all by an innocent chancing
Like lambkins and birds in the spring.

Unskilled in the airs of the city,
She's perfect in natural grace;
She's gentle and thoughtful, and witty,
And ne'er spends a thought on her face.

Her face, with the fine glow that's in it,
As fresh as an apple tree bloom—
And, oh, when she comes, in a minute,
Like sunbeams, she brightens the room.

As taking in mind as in feature,
How many will sigh for her sake!
I wonder, the sweet little creature,
What sort of a wife she would make?
—William Allingham.

CHRISTMAS IN THE FREE KINDERGARTEN.

1—Teacher—"Now, children, the one that likes mint candy, will please step forward."

2— ! ! ! SSS ! ! !

3— ? —Copyrighted.

NARROW ESCAPE.

What Happened to the Turkish Minister's Autograph.

A Washington young woman who collects autographs is the envy of her feminine acquaintances. She has secured the signature of the new Turkish minister. The eccentric inscription might be anything else, so far as the impression which it conveys to the Anglo-Saxon eye is concerned, but its authenticity is indisputable, and its value is great in the eyes of its possessor.

She had been suffering with an attack of malaria, and the physician had left a prescription. Her mother, after the doctor's departure, picked up a piece of paper, and was almost out of the room when a cry of anguish arrested her.

"Be careful of it!" the daughter exclaimed. "What are you going to do with that?"

"Are you delirious?" was the response.

"No. Don't you see what you are handling in that careless way? It's the Turkish minister's autograph."

Her mother looked at it carefully, laid it down, and with a grave countenance said:

"My dear girl, you don't know what a narrow escape you have had."

"You mean I came very near losing the autograph?"

"Worse than that. There is no telling what combinations of materia medica might have been doing deadly work if you had not spoken. I didn't notice the writing on the autograph carefully, or I might not have made the mistake, but I was just about to send it to the drug store to have it filled!" —Washington Star.

A Peculiar Case.

A young girl living in Sainte-Ruffine, near Metz, the capital of Loraine, was arrested in the latter place the other day, charged with sedition. Sainte-Ruffine is in France and, during a review of French troops there, some German spy had heard her cry: "Au revoir, les Francais! Vive la France!" and when she next came to Metz she was arrested. The German judge discharged her on the ground that the "crime" had been committed on French territory and the prisoner was not therefore amenable to German laws.—New York Tribune.

Badly Arranged.

"You seem to have to mend your garments a good deal, Mrs. Bugby."

"Yes; our washerwoman is two sizes larger than I am."

Consumption

Out-door life and Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites have cured thousands of cases of consumption in the early stages. They cure old, advanced cases too; but not so many, nor so promptly. When a case is so far advanced that a cure cannot be made, even then SCOTT'S EMULSION checks the rapidity of the disease, relieves the pains in the chest, reduces the night sweats, and makes the cough easier. In these cases it comforts and prolongs life. Don't experiment with cures that destroy the digestion. Pin your faith to the one remedy which has been THE STANDARD FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Book about it free for the asking.

For sale by all druggists at 50c. and $1.00.

SCOTT & BOWNE, New York.

The Sunday School.

LESSON I.—JANUARY 3, 1897.
Christ's Ascension.

Golden Text: While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke 24:51.

(Acts 1:1-14.)

1.—The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2.—Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3.—To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4.—And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5.—For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6.—When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel?

7.—And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8.—But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9.—And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10.—And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11.—Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12.—Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13.—And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14.—These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Illustrative Applications.

Concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach (v. 1). And the doing and the teaching of our Lord during his earthly life were but a beginning. That doing and teaching are still going on in this world of ours. Though our Lord wrought a finished atonement for us on the cross, he has not finished with us. In the unseen holy he is still active in our behalf. We are not enough convinced of this. We think of the Lord Jesus too much as one who has been, not enough as one who veritably is, and who is as much in our world as when the paths of Palestine were trodden by the blessed feet. Not as a memory is our Lord, as are the dead because Father is he a gracious and pervading presence still. This Book of the Acts is the record of our Lord's continuing ministry in our world. What help and strength for us here! Our Christ is a living Christ, not a dead one. Our religion does not center itself in one who was, but in one who is.

Showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs (v. 3). I met a young man once who had adopted a dreary creed—that God, if there were one, had withdrawn himself from the world; that we were in the grip of pitiless law only; that prayer was "but wasted breath bested back by the gale," that the only thing man could do was to stand what he must hopelessly; that the end of him was extinction. "And yet," said this young man to me—and he was a young man, earnest and thoughtful, though poisoned in such sad creed—"there is one thing I cannot adjust with my philosophy, nor can I, deny the fact—that fact is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That forces a new element into my thinking, and threatens to demolish the structure of it." Such, in effect, was what the young man said. I do not know how it turned out with him, but I have high hopes the resurrection brought him to the truth. Nothing is more certain than that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and nothing is more annihilating of all anti-Christian theorizing than the fact of the resurrection. Do you want a short and perfect evidence of the truth of Christianity? It is here—the resurrection of Christ—buttressed, as it is, by so "many proofs."

It is not for you to know times or seasons, which the Father hath set within his own authority (v. 7). What a rebuke is here to all poor prophecy-mongering! When I was a boy, there used to haunt the streets of the city where I lived a man who, hanging all sorts of direful prophetic pictures on the fences, would predict the exact date of the end of the world. He much scared my boyhood. But his dates kept coming and passing, yet the world stood. Finally, he set another and more distant date, making all sorts of intricate calculations based, as he affirmed, upon the prophetic Scriptures. Some one asked the man's wife, "Do you really think the world will come to an end when your husband predicts?" She replied, "I am sure I can not know;" and then, with a wife's affection, immediately added, "but I do wish it would; it would do Mr. —— so much good." Nothing can be more unwise and time-wasting and mind-wasting than such poor human predictions. Do not be troubled with them or notice them. It is enough to know that God has set things in his own authority. Rest there, and be quiet.

Ye shall receive power (v. 8). That is a very real though strange something—the power of the Holy Ghost. I once knew a man who in his earlier life had been dreadfully wicked. But on a certain night in a certain February of a certain year—the date shone in his memory as the sun does in the sky—he gave himself to Jesus Christ. I never knew any one who walked closer to Jesus Christ than did he. He was very ignorant and illiterate, but you could not be with him five minutes and not be conscious that he possessed something unusual. When he spoke before people, though he did it in a most broken way, saying nearly the same thing over and over, I have seen a great hush fall. The people were as though under a spell. How anxious he was to win souls, and how successful he was in winning them! Many and many a time the man has been sent for from the homes of wealth and culture. Somehow troubled souls there seemed to find his words better than those of any other. There was a great spiritual power in the man. It was the power of the Holy Ghost. It was his because he was so open-souled and true to Christ. We may have somewhat of it. If we will, but only on the same conditions. But the power of the Holy Ghost can change the fisherman Peter into the Jerusalem-compelling Apostle Peter.

Ye shall be my witnesses (v. 8). This is the peculiar function of the Christian—by life, by deed, by speech, he is to witness for the Lord. The trouble with too many Christians is that they refuse the whole of themselves for witnessing. Some will witness with speech, but the life does not bear the speech out, and so there are damages and clashings in their witnessing. Some live consistent lives, and refuse the witnessing by speech. So their witnessing is but partial. Oh that we might all be true witnesses, and witnesses with our whole selves—not a faculty or possession of us withheld from bearing testimony for our Lord!

In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (v. 8). This is the Scripture of the concentric circles. First inner circle, Jerusalem; that is city missions. Next circle, Judea; that is, state missions. Next circle, Samaria; that is, home missions. Next and outer circle, uttermost part of the earth; that is, foreign missions. If a Christian would be true to his Lord's plan of campaign, he must believe in and work for all of them.

He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight (v. 9). The ascension is a necessary bloom of the resurrection, "since after the resurrection Christ must either have ascended to heaven or lived a hidden life, and subsequently died a natural death." But when he mastered death in the resurrection, death could have no more dominion over him. And do you remember enough the truth that, ascending, he did not ascend out of our nature, but that he ascended in it? Too many people think Christ somehow sloughed off our nature in his ascension. But that is precisely false. When he took upon himself our nature, he took it upon himself to remain in it. He was born in our nature, he lived his earthly life in our nature, he suffered in our nature, and—he ascended in our nature. In the unseen Holy he is in our nature still, albiet it is our nature glorified. How Christ remains in brotherhood with us! He has carried with himself our nature into the highest heaven and to the seat of universal rule. Your glorified Brother is on the throne. What comfort is here! Surely his rule will include thought and care of me. Surely prayer can reach his brother heart.

Why stand ye looking into heaven? (v. 11). The best service is not that of ecstasy, of thought districted from our present sphere, of forgetfulness of the duty near us. There was a true and high meaning of that remark of Sir Folwell Buxton, who, when he was bending every energy to the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain, replied to some one questioning him about his soul, "I am so busy I have no time to think whether I have a soul." A gaze toward heaven which misses the earth and our duty in the earth is a poor sort of gazing for the Christian. Robert Browning sings how the angel Gabriel was sent by God to take a poor boy's place and trade:

"And ever o'er the trade he went,
And ever lived on earth content.
"He did God's will: to him all one
If on the earth or in the sun."

"These all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer (v. 14). It has always been a great mystery to me why they should pray at all. Upon them, in the upper room in Jerusalem, Christ had promised that the power should fall. Why might they not, then, without prayer, simply await the fulfilment of the promise? I do not know. Here is one of the mysteries of prayer to me. Yet this and other instances reveal this strange, real fact about prayer—that it must mediate between promise and fulfilment. That which marries promise and fulfilment is our poor human prayer. Wonderful, but that is the law. And nothing is so efficacious in causing promise to flow out into fulfilment as just such persistent, accordant prayer as rose from the hearts and lips of these disciples—men and women. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Let me then give myself to prayer if I would receive blessing. Let me not carelessly and vaguely wait for blessing, and hope it will come somehow. Let my faith seize the promises and plead them for Jesus' sake. So, and so only, will all the blessings with which the promises burgeon break in answer to my head.—Wyland Hoyt, in S. S. Times.

—You can't be well if your blood is impure, but you may have pure blood and good health by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HUMAN-FACED HEN.

A Poultry Freak Belonging to a Chicago Man.

Chicago has a curiosity in the shape of a "human-faced" hen, 18 months old. According to its owner, William Sanker, cashier of the Tosetti restaurant, it was born or hatched without a bill, or, indeed, any trace of that member.

THE HUMAN-FACED HEN.

Instead of a sharp bill the chicken is provided with a short, clearly defined nose and a mouth large enough to admit a 25-cent piece. The "face" resembles that of a monkey more than a human being, and it is far from beautiful. The freak lives by itself in a big cage, and will not associate with other chickens. It was one of a brood of ten, and its brothers and sisters have always feared it as they would a hawk. It will fight anything of its size and weight, and it has never been vanquished. It feeds without "picking," and does not appear at all handicapped by the want of a bill. It is a full-blooded "Plymouth Rock," and a pet.

It will follow Mr. Sankey about like a pet dog, and it does not object to considerable attention from strangers. It "sings" and clucks as any old hen, and seems perfectly happy even in solitude. It is fat enough to kill, but it will no doubt die of old age as its owner says it is not for sale. He intends to keep it as a pet as long as it lives.—Chicago Tribune.

An Asthma Cure at Last.

It gives us great pleasure to announce the discovery of a positive cure for Asthma, in the wonderful Kola Plant, a new botanic product found on the Congo River, West Africa. The cures wrought by it in the worst cases are really marvelous. Sufferers of twenty to fifty years' standing have been at once restored to health by the Kola Plant. Among others, many ministers of the gospel testify to its wonderful powers. Rev. J. L. Combs, of Martinsburgh, W. Va., was perhaps the worst case, and was cured by the Kola Plant after fifty years' suffering. Mr. Albert C. Lewis, Washington, D. C., Editor of the Farm's Magazine, gives similar testimony, as do many others. To prove to you beyond a doubt its wonderful curative power, the Kola Importing Co., No. 1104 Broadway, New York, will send a large size of the Kola Compound free by mail to every reader of The Blade who suffers from any form of Asthma. They only ask in return that when cured yourself you will tell your neighbors about it. You should surely try it, as it costs you nothing.

A Modern Romance.

CHAPTER I.

"Did your wealthy old grandfather mention you in his will?"

CHAPTER II

"He did."

CHAPTER III.

"Then, Fitz Rooey, dearest, I am yours till death."

CHAPTER IV.

"He mentioned that I should be cut off without a red cent."

CHAPTER V.

"Then, Fitz Rooey, I am not yours for even a little minute—good-bye."

THE END.

His Predicament.

"Never talk shop at home. A man should never mix his home and his business affairs."

"But I can't help it."

"Why not?"

"I edit the housekeepers' column of a family story paper."—Chicago Evening Post.

SUBSTITUTION

the FRAUD of the day.

See you get Carter's.

Ask for Carter's.

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills

The only perfect

Liver Pill.

Take no other,

Even if

Solicited to do so.

Beware of imitations

of Same Color Wrapper.

RED.

WOMEN OF NEW YORK.

Just a Bit More Spry Than Their Sisters of Other Cities.

The Western woman heaved a sigh as she and Mrs. Gotham reached the sidewalk.

"You don't seem to mind it at all," she said admiringly.

"Mind what?"

"Why, crossing the street."

"Why should I?"

"Well, I should think you couldn't help feeling you might not live through it. Almost any one would mind that."

"Nonesense!"

"You may say 'nonesense' all day if you want to, and 'fudge,' too, and 'pooh, pooh!' but I'm scared, and I don't mind admitting it. And that's where we differ," she added defiantly.

"You think I'm afraid when I cross the street?"

The Western woman said nothing, but looked straight ahead of her and drew her mouth around to one side.

"Do you think I'm afraid?" persisted Mrs. Gotham.

"Well, women are women," remarked the Western woman with fine wisdom.

"Do you think I'm afraid, or do you not?" demanded Mrs. Gotham.

"Well, ain't you?"

"No, I'm not, and that's where we differ instead of the way you said."

"Honestly, don't you mind it at all?"

"Not a bit except when I'm in a hurry. You see, I've lived in New York all my life and I'm used to it."

The Western woman seemed depressed. She said nothing.

"Why," resumed Mrs. Gotham, "I don't realize what a difference New York makes in a person until I go some place else. Even other cities don't produce the same results. I was down in Washington not long ago and I had this fact 'borne in' on me as they say down there. I went into a store one day to buy some embroidery. I didn't want very much and I wasn't in any hurry at all, but from force of habit I did just as I would have done here in New York. You know, when you go in to a shop here you edge your way up to a counter and then you try to get the attention of a saleswoman. That takes a long time. When you have at last succeeded in getting one of them to turn her eyes toward you, you ask her to please wait on you next. Sometimes she gives you the satisfaction of showing that she has heard you. More often, not.

"Well, as I say, I wasn't in any hurry at all that day in Washington, but from force of habit I bustled up to the counter and said:

"Will you please wait on me next?"

"The salesman was in the act of measuring off some embroidery for a woman who was sitting beside me. He laid it down at once.

"Are you in a hurry?" he asked impressively of his customer. She said she wasn't.

"Would you mind if I waited on this lady first?" indicating me.

"Not in the least!"

"Well I was embarrassed. I said, Oh, no! I would wait. Indeed, they could not permit me to wait! I assured them I was not in a hurry, but they were convinced that I was or I would never have spoken. There was nothing to be done about it. I picked out my embroidery, it was cut off, a cash boy carried it off at a trot, spurred on by the eager clerk, and, after a profuse exchange of civilities between him, the other customer, and myself, I came triumphantly away with my purchase. But it made me feel queer.

"There's another habit which is peculiarly characteristic of the New York woman. I don't believe you will find that other women are as quick in getting on and off street cars. A New York woman is always at the step ready to descend the moment the car sufficiently slackens its speed and the conductor lets go his grip of her arm. I was in Albany a few weeks ago, and people looked at me in wondering amazement, because I left my car and was at the door when the car stopped. Nobody else did it. I don't think even the men did. As for the women, they sat placidly in their places until the car came to a dead stop, then they gathered themselves and their belongings together and ambled out. Why, if a New York woman should do that the conductor would be calling out:

"Step lively, madam! Step lively! Step-ee lively there!"

"Oh, it's a great education," concluded Mrs. Gotham; "this living in New York."

"In which direction, I wonder," murmured the Western woman. New York Sun.

WITH THE WITS.

Quite Sufficient.

Maude—They say the man Ida married is the acme of ignorance.

Her Mother—But, my dear, he knows how to sign checks.—Philadelphia North American.

An Adept.

Simms—Did you say Miss D'Auber was an artist.

Pettit—Yes, don't you notice her dainty coloring?—Philadelphia North American.

Well Deaned.

"Papa, what is a demagogue?"

"He is a man of some influence who doesn't belong to your political party."—Exchange.

Always at Hand.

"What in thunder do you keep this bridle and saddle by your bedside for?"

"For use when I have the nightmare."—Philadelphia North American.

All Exhausted.

Simmons—And what is this poor fellow in for?

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

Largest and Best Weekly Published, and Largest Circulation!

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

TERMS—Postage Paid.

Single copy, weekly, one year, $1.00; six months, 50 cents; three months, 30 cents. Write for club terms.

SPECIMEN COPIES sent, postpaid, free, to any address. Send for one, and at the same time give us the address of a dozen or so of your friends. Address

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT TOLEDO AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

CIRCULATION LAST WEEK, 115,000

TO SUBSCRIBERS WHOSE TIME EXPIRES IN DECEMBER.

We have mailed a proposition by postal card to all subscribers whose time expires in December, making a special rate for renewal for the Weekly Blade for one year at a price that is very remarkable, and should have the attention of every one to whom it is addressed.

The postal card should by this time have reached every person whose time expires in December, and it will create a sensation.

We ask all those who should be entitled to one of the cards, but who has not received it; to write us immediately and we will send a duplicate.

The terms proposed in this card will surprise you.

OUR BICYCLE OFFER.

The announcement made in last week's issue of The Blade, of a FREE bicycle, has awakened unusual interest. We are receiving an enormous number of calls for the bicycle circulars, and they are being mailed from day to day, as rapidly as possible. The indications are that several hundred of our readers will be at work during the coming month, to earn bicycles on one of the plans laid down in our circular.

The following is the announcement made last week. We want every one who receives one of our circulars, just as soon as he makes up his mind to accept our proposition, to write us of his acceptance, so that we may enter his name on our list of bicycle competitors:

As we have many times before remarked, it is a good thing to be a subscriber to The Blade. We are constantly giving our readers opportunities to obtain useful and necessary articles at a nominal price. Thus the money expended for a year's subscription is usually refunded many fold. Now we have a plan whereby any reader of The Blade may obtain of us, during the months of January and February, a first-class high grade bicycle, either at a nominal price of $25, or less down to $5, or even ABSOLUTELY FREE. It would require too much space to elaborate fully our plan here, and we have therefore prepared a detailed circular of information, which we will be pleased to mail to any applicant. This plan appeals especially to young people, but is equally available to any person who wants a good first-class wheel. Hundreds of our readers have in mind the purchase of a bicycle upon the opening of the coming spring. Why pay $85 to $100 for one, when our plan will save you that amount of money?

Drop us a postal card for our bicycle circular, and do it quickly, as our offer is for the months of January and February only. One hundred dollars saved is $200 earned. Address "The Blade, Toledo, Ohio."

CONSULAR REFORM.

There is a complaint among Americans directly and personally interested in the extension of our foreign trade that the consular service of the United States is phenomenally inefficient. They find the consuls, in many places, utterly indifferent to the interests they are appointed to subserve, or else incompetent to do things which are clearly within the scope of their official duties.

The trouble is, that the wave of Clevelandism swept out of the service the Republicans then in office, and replaced them by a job lot of the cheapest politicians, especially in the minor places. These men know nothing of business methods, have no real conception of what they might do to promote the commercial interests of this country, and are incompetent to carry out these objects, even if they understood them.

A consul is a commercial agent. His business is like that of a commercial traveler—to drum up business for the United States, and to seek extension of our trade in the district under his charge. He should have a good business head, understand the qualities and values of the goods sent from his district to this country, that he may be able to certify that they are not undervalued in the invoices, and should be able to write reports involving research, and present the results in intelligible form.

Our consuls abroad are not men of this stamp, as a rule. And, worse than all, by putting the bulk of the consular offices under civil service rules, Cleveland has prepared a lot of "soft berths" for the present Democratic incumbents.

The consular service should have a thorough overhauling at the hands of the new administration. If the civil service law has been invoked so as to shield a lot of incompetents, it should be amended so that they may be weeded out. Our consuls should be men of affairs, not decayed politicians or petty party hustlers. Why waste money on them and get no good of the service?

NEUTRALITY LAWS VIOLATED.

It may be news to the hundreds of citizens of the United States who are enlisting in the Cuban army, and to the thousands who are desirous of enlisting, that every man who does enlist violates the neutrality laws and makes himself subject to both fine and imprisonment.

At this time the United States and Spain are on terms of peace. So far as the law is concerned this country does not know of the contest now being waged between Spain and Cuba. The enlistment of Americans in the Cuban army is a menace to Spain and a direct violation of the most stringent law. It becomes the duty of the department of justice to enforce the provisions of this law.

It will be observed, however, that up to the present time no arrests have been made. Enlistments are going on in all parts of the country and not a United States marshal has raised a hand. The feeling for Cuba is so intense, her cause apparently so just, that Americans are rallying to the standard of the insurgents and ready to brave all perils for Cuban independence.

Can it be that the government itself believes Cuba should be free and therefore permits one of its own laws to be openly violated?

A NOTABLE CHRISTMAS.

This year's Christmas is the most notable one to all who acknowledge the name of Christian, that has occurred for a century.

It completes nineteen centuries since the birth of the Redeemer. It is reasonably well established that Christ was born four years before the current date assigned to the Christian era—that is, in B. C. 4, instead of A. D. 1. Hence 1896 marks the completion of the nineteenth century since His birth.

The fixing of the date of the commencement of the Christian era was the work of Dionysius Exiguus (the Little, from his short stature), a native of Scythia, who became abbot of a monastery in Rome, where he died about A. D. 550, in the reign of the Emperor Justinian. Before his time the Christian era had been calculated from the death of Christ. He determined, to his own satisfaction, that the birth of Christ was in the fourth year of the 194th Olympiad, or the 754th year from the founding of Rome; and his calculation was accepted by all Christian nations, at least after the eighth century.

But later researches have pretty conclusively proved that he placed Christ's birth about four years too late. But it would involve too much confusion in dates to make the change, hence our chronology is unchanged, we merely placing the date of the incarnation in the year 4 B. C. Dionysius began his year with the Annunciation—the 25th of March—just nine months before Christmas. The change of the beginning of the calendar year to January 1 was made some centuries later.

The Homiletic Review, in a recent issue, voiced a trumpet-call to the churches for more aggressive work. The article has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and is now being widely distributed among ministers and leaders in evangelistic work throughout the country.

The "call" directs the attention of the church "to the fact that the twentieth century is not four years distant, but is now upon us. It is well established that Christ was born at least four years previous to the current date assigned to the Christian era."

Hence the call to the churches for immediate action, and an appeal to Christendom at once to "gird itself for world conquest," that the gospel may be carried immediately to all the peoples of the earth. It presses home the need of personal consecration and immediate practical efforts on the part of every Christian believer for the conversion of the world.

There is grandeur in the scheme to mark the opening of the twentieth Christian century by a mighty forward movement all along the lines, looking to the evangelization of the world. There has never been a time, since the parting commission of our Lord—"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"—when such a grand advance of all Christian forces would be of such power as now. It is indeed a time for every Christian to consecrate himself anew to the work of evangelizing the world.

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCES.

It is a singular fact that the popular observance of Christian festivals, notably Easter and Christmas, embodies many old customs which were a part of pagan festivals and high days.

The festival of Saturn, among the ancient Romans, began on December 17, and lasted several days. During this festival—the saturnalia—slaves were as free as their masters, all was public rejoicing and merrymaking, and from this annual hubbub of festivity at least two customs, the decoration with evergreens and the giving of gifts, have descended to us to form parts of our modern Christmas celebration.

Roman customs followed the course of Rome's conquering legions, and the saturnalian gifts and greens were transported to the north by the campaigns of the Roman general, Drusus, among the German tribes. The customs took root there, and afterward, in their Christianized forms, were again transplanted to England, and finally crossed the ocean to the Western continent.

The story of the conversion of the saturnalian greenery and gift-giving to Christian uses is like that of most of the other Christmas and Easter customs. Between the church festival of the Christmass and the various festivals of the season of the winter solstice found already established in the lands which the church entered in its growth, sprung up what seemed to be a hopeless conflict. Converts, while willing to adopt the new holy day, would not give up the old; and the two observances, often totally variant in spirit and influence, went on side by side.

At last, as a desperate expedient, the church incorporated into its own memorial many of the pagan customs of the season, and, by spiritualizing them and adapting them to new ideas, endeavored to lead the people through them to the new Ideal. On the whole, the plan worked well, though at times the Christmass foundation was threatened with a total disappearance under the number of foreign usuages which clustered upon it.

Odd as it may seem, there is only one of the many Christmas surroundings of the present day which can lay claim to Christian origin, and even that cannot fully establish its genealogical tree. That lone claimant is the mince pie. Some few hundred years ago it was made in an oval form, and its crust was considered emblematic of the manger in which the Saviour was born, while its conglomerate filling was supposed to represent the spices and other rich gifts brought by the magi to the infant Christ.

CUT DOWN APPROPRIATIONS!

At the November election the gold reserve in the treasury was $118,000,000. It has now increased to over $133,000,000. This is the result of the return of confidence because of the outcome of the election. But while the gold reserve has increased, the revenues have not. In the first two weeks of December the deficiency has reached over a million and a half. The record of the Cleveland deficit is as follows:

Fiscal Year.	Deficiency.
1894	$69,803,260
1895	42,805,223
1896	25,203,245
1897 to date	41,523,380
Total	$179,335,108

Within three years and a half we have spent that much more than the total revenue which the government has received. Where did we get the money? From the issue of bonds to maintain the gold reserve. The bonds were sold for gold, which went into the treasury. Greenbacks were paid in to draw out the gold; the greenbacks thus paid in were used to meet government expenditures. And there you are.

While the present administration has issued $262,000,000 of bonds ostensibly to maintain the gold reserve, it has actually used $179,000,000 of the proceeds in the payment of running expenses. There is now no probability that the laws putting money into the treasury can be revised at this session of Congress; therefore it is of vital importance that the bills taking money out of the treasury should be kept down to the lowest possible amount.

CAMERON'S CUBAN RESOLUTION.

The Senate committee on foreign relations on Friday agreed, by a practically unanimous vote, to report the Cameron resolution to the Senate. The changes made in its wording were all in the direction of making it more emphatic, and consequently more offensive to Spain. The title of the resolution was altered to read "Joint resolution acknowledging the independence of the republic of Cuba"—the words "the republic of" being interjected. And, instead of the declaration that the United States "should" use its friendly offices, it was amended so as to say "will" do so—thus committing the government to decisive action. The full resolution now reads:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that the independence of the republic of Cuba be and the same is hereby acknowledged by the United States of America.

That the United States will use its friendly offices with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and Cuba.

The temper of the committee was shown by the decision to report the resolution to the Senate on Monday. Senator Sherman was desirous of having this postponed until after the holiday recess, but the majority of the committee was in favor of doing it at once.

The question of interest now is, what will the Senate and House do?

The adoption of that resolution by both houses—and its signature by the President—means war with Spain.

There will be an energetic effort in the Senate, as well as in the House, to put the resolution through. Part of this will be because of an earnest belief that the United States should intervene, and part is, without a doubt, a mere catering to the ebullient sympathy of the people of the United States with the Cuban cause.

There is, neither among the people, nor in Congress, one particle of sympathy with Spain. Everybody desires the success of the Cubans most heartily. The only division of opinion is on the point whether the United States should take a step which is certain to embroil us with Spain, and provoke a war.

On this point the Cameron resolution will be fought bitterly in both houses of Congress. What the outcome will be, it is utterly impossible to forecast. The resolution may be amended, or a substitute passed. At any rate, the resolution will not be put through at headlong speed.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Few people recall the fact that the national Republican platform, adopted at St. Louis, contains a plank favoring the purchase of the Danish possessions in the West Indies. It says that "by the purchase of the Danish islands we should secure a much-needed naval station in the West Indies." And it is altogether probable that the matter will come up in Congress within the next twelve months—if not at the present session, then at the extra one.

Denmark has no use for the islands and is anxious to sell them to the United States. They would be of value to this country, especially the principal one, St. Thomas, which Admiral Porter described in 1865, as lying right in the track of all vessels from Europe, Brazil, the East Indies and the Pacific Ocean bound to the West Indies or the United States. It is the point where all vessels touch for supplies when needed coming from any of the above stations. The admiral further spoke of St. Thomas as "a small Gibraltar of itself, that could not be attacked by a naval force. There is no harbor in the West Indies better fitted than St. Thomas for a naval station. In fine, St. Thomas is the keystone to the arch of the West Indies."

Speaking of the West Indian Islands, it is a notable fact that the people of St. Kitt's, the oldest English colony in that part of the world, are actually talking of seceding from the British Empire. The St. Christopher Gazette reports that a resolution in favor of annexation to the United States was lost by a majority of two only at a recent meeting of the planters and merchants of St. Kitt's and Nevis. The London Daily News in referring to the present discontent in the West Indian colonies, remarks that "planter rule was by no means such a success as to warrant its restoration; but if Mr. Chamberlain is sending commissioners to the West Indies, they may usefully inquire whether there is not more than that in the present outcry."

THE LODGE BILL.

The Senate has passed the Lodge immigration bill, with an amendment excepting temporarily immigrants from Cuba—the idea being to allow those driven from the island by the stress of war to find a haven of refuge on our shores.

The bill, as it passed the Senate, is an amended form of the bill which passed the House last winter. Its chief provision is an educational test, and a very simple one. He must prove himself able to read and write his native language. Printed slips, containing extracts from the United States constitution, in the languages of all the countries from which immigrants come are provided, and the immigrant will have to prove his ability to read and write when he lands at Ellis Island. If he fails, he is to be returned to his native land at the expense of the steamship company which brought him over.

There has been a gradual deterioration in the character of the immigration to this country. There are fewer from the British Isles, the Scandinavian Peninsula, and Germany, but a large increase from the less desirable classes of Central and Southern Europe. The latter are as a rule very ignorant, and many are hardly better than criminals. They know little, and have no ambition to know more.

It has been a problem how to keep out those who are undesirable, and admit those who will eventually make good American citizens. The present bill adopts a simple educational test. The result of this experiment—for it is merely this—will be watched with great interest. It is believed the House will concur in the Senate amendments, and that the measure will speedily become a law.

The American Federation of Labor has adopted a resolution urging the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents. One member opposed recognition on the ground that it might necessarily increase the size of the United States army. We cannot see why he should object to any increase of the army. Is he contemplating rebellion, or resistance to the execution of the laws of this country?

Congressman Treloar, of Missouri, has introduced a resolution to amend the constitution to lengthen the terms of Presidents and Senators to eight years and Representatives to four years. Just now is a poor time to revive that ancient chestnut. Suppose we had to endure four years more of Grover Cleveland and the deficit-producing Wilson tariff!

OLNEY'S BAD BLUNDER.

Secretary Olney has taken a most extraordinary position with regard to the Cameron resolution in the Senate for the recognition of the independence of the republic of Cuba.

He declares that Congress has no power to recognize the independence of any country; that this belongs of right to the executive, not to the legislative department of the government—to the President, and not to Congress.

He furthermore states that, should the resolution pass both houses of Congress, even by a two-thirds majority, it would be "inoperative as legislation," and would "leave unaltered the attitude of this government toward the two contending parties in Cuba."

In other words, if the resolution should pass, and pass again over the President's veto, the President would not obey it!

Nothing in the course of the present extraordinary administration has created such a sensation as this statement of Mr. Olney. It is accepted as being an authoritative exposition of the attitude of the President.

It means that he denies the authority of Congress to recognize Cuban independence: and that, should it pass any resolution to that effect, he will not carry it out, on the ground of that alleged lack of authority.

The question is a constitutional one, and, in the absence of a direct provision of the constitution on this point, its answer must be determined by two things—first, under the grants of power expressly made by the constitution, to which would the duty or power of recognition properly belong—to the President or to Congress? and, second, what precedents are there in our past history which throw light upon the dispute?

The constitution nowhere gives the President any exclusive authority to deal with foreign nations—the only power specifically mentioned being that of appointing diplomatic and consular representatives—but this only with the advice and consent of the Senate.

On the other hand, the constitution gives to Congress authority to declare war, grant letters of marque, make rules concerning captures by land and sea, to raise and support armies and the navy, to punish offenses against the law of nations, to make rules regulating the land and naval forces, to call forth the militia, and organize and discipline it, and to regulate commerce with foreign nations.

The right to regulate commerce with foreign nations must carry with it the right to determine what those nations are, and the government thereof which it shall recognize. And, as the constitution declares that Congress has the power "to make all laws for carrying into execution the foregoing powers," this may reasonably be held to include the power to recognize the government of that foreign nation.

Hence it is clear that the presumption is very much against Mr. Olney's surprising dictum, and in favor of the full authority of Congress to recognize Cuba.

As to the second point, there are two precedents, and both directly against Mr. Olney. In 1821, when the South American states were fighting for their independence of Spain, Henry Clay offered a resolution in the House of Representatives acknowledging them as free and independent states, which passed the House without any protest from the President. In January, 1822, they were recognized by a vote of both houses of Congress, the President having sent a message asking that such action be taken—thus recognizing the power of Congress over the subject.

This second instance was the recognition of the independence of the republic of Texas. In December, 1836, President Jackson sent a special message to Congress, in which he recommended delay in such recognition. In March, 1837, Texan independence was recognized by a joint resolution of Congress.

The evidence is thus against Mr. Olney's theory; and, should the Cuban resolution pass both houses of Congress, and President refuse to carry it out, he would be, and should be, promptly impeached by the House of Representatives.

The only thing that will prevent serious trouble will be the delay of the resolution by parliamentary tactics until the close of Mr. Cleveland's term.

CLEVELAND SETTLES IT.

For a good many years, a controversy has waged over the question whether a singular or a plural verb should be used with the words "United States." Shall we say "the United States is a great nation," or, "the United States are," etc.?

This controversy took a political tinge. The old-time advocates of state rights, with the derivative doctrines of nullification and secession, insisted upon "are." In their view, this country is but a congeries of independent states—federated, it is true, but by no means losing their sovereignty because of that. Hence the term "United States" to them requires the plural verb "are" to refer to the sovereign states of which the Union is composed.

The advocates of the nationality theory took the opposite view. They held—and correctly, too—that the individual states are not nations, but surrendered their sovereignty to the national government when they entered the Union. Hence the term "United States" requires the singular verb, to signify that it is but one nation, not an aggregation of nations. The doctrine of state sovereignty received a severe blow by the outcome of the war, which negatived the assumed right of secession, and established the fact that the United States is a nation—with a very big N!"

Cleveland's recent message takes the ground that the United States "is.' Twice he uses that form of expression:

The United States has nevertheless a character to maintain as a nation.

Further, though the United States is not a nation to which peace is a necessity, it is in truth the most pacific of powers, and desires nothing so much as to live in amity with all the world.

The Democrats of the old school never agreed with this usage; and to see Mr. Cleveland voluntarily accept a form which relinquishes the old-time Democratic doctrine of state sovereignty, goes far to convince us that the world moves after all.

Fredericksburg, Virginia, is trying to raise enough money to erect a monument to President Monroe. What's the use? The Monroe Doctrine is a greater and more lasting monument than man can build.

If you are desirous of seeing Cuba free, contribute your cash to the cause. Money is needed more than anything else. Don't take it out in abusing Olney, but put your hand into your pocket, and produce.

The Washington Post says there are 12,000 office seekers in Ohio. Looks as if the Post dropped a zero figure.

"Bryan" and "war" are two words the business men of the country would be glad to be well rid of.

Every man should read the offer of Thos. Slater on page 5 of this paper.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Blade most heartily wishes to all its readers, scattered as they are all over this great land, a "Merry Christmas!"

The Blade itself feels the spirit of Christmas time, for with this week's issue it enters upon its sixty-fifth volume; and that, too, under the most favorable auspices.

The first week in the new year, our new presses will arrive: and as soon as they can be put in place, we shall present our readers their favorite paper with a much improved mechanical appearance.

As for the contents, we are striving constantly to better The Blade, and we have a number of new features for the coming year which will make it still worthier their cordial and continued support.

"DOING SOMETHING FOR SILVER."

The New York Post, being a free trader of the extreme school, is naturally worried at the prospect of the passage of a properly protective tariff law, and consequently finds a lion in the path in the Senate. It says:

We spoke of the certainty that the Republicans will only have a majority in the next Senate by counting as Republicans several members of the party who do not accept the gold standard plank of the St. Louis platform. The nation is thus confronted with the danger that the Republican managers will secure the passage of the tariff bill, upon which they have set their hearts, by an agreement to "do something for silver."

The Post need not worry itself. The time for a compromise with the rabid silver element in the Senate is over. We have had too much of that in the past. The McKinley bill was passed only by the promise to "do something for silver," and that something is known in our history as the Sherman silver law of 1890—named after Sherman because, as chairman of the Senate finance committee, he introduced the bill, which was patched up in that committee, and not because he was its author.

What can be done for silver? We have already done more for silver than any other nation in the world which has a bimetallic circulation. We have now just about as much full legal tender silver in our circulation as we have gold. This is much further than any other nation has deemed it safe to go. France has more silver in circulation in proportion to her gold than any other country except ourselves. For every franc of full legal tender silver she has two francs of gold. But we have only a dollar in gold for every dollar in silver. We have, in proportion, twice as much silver as has France, and far more than any other country which uses gold in her circulation.

The only way to increase the volume of our silver with safety is to increase the volume of our gold in proportion. We have gone to the limit of safety, and even beyond it, in the estimation of many financial authorities.

Hence there can be no legislation that will add to the silver flood. The silver clique in the Senate cannot force any such measure through as a compromise. The day for that is past. The verdict at the polls in November precludes any yielding of the Republicans to the seductions of the silver siren.

INTERNATIONAL BIMETALLISM.

The Republican Senatorial caucus has determined upon a committee whose duty it shall be to draft a bill providing for the calling of an international monetary conference to promote bimetallism. It is composed of Senator Wolcott, chairman; Messrs. Hoar, Chandler, Carter and Gear. Three of these are pronounced free silver men of the 16 to 1 stripe, and two are bimetallists.

It must not be forgotten that, though the 16 to 1 enthusiasts call themselves bimetallists, their pet scheme would result in silver monometallism. Bimetallism can only be had by having the bullion in our silver and our gold coins of the same value. A silver dollar, reduced to bullion, must be exactly worth a gold dollar; and a gold dollar, reduced to bullion, must be exactly worth a silver dollar. A scheme which makes one worth only about half the other would never result in bimetallism.

We do not believe in the plan of beginning with an effort to get up another monetary commission. All the European governments might readily send delegates to such a body, as a matter of international courtesy; but that would by no means signify that they are willing to accept the conclusions of the conference, if it should elaborate a scheme for bimetallism.

The vital question is this: Will the great nations of Europe join in an attempt to restore silver as a money metal—to give it free coinage and full legal tender powers at a ratio to be fixed by agreement? If they will do so, then a monetary conference is in order; if they will not, what is the use of such a gathering?

The Blade believes the question should be put to the nations interested directly, through our ambassadors and ministers. Let the proposition come directly from the President, and have the matter settled at once.

If they are willing, then let us move to accomplish that result. If not, then it will be the imperative duty of the Republican party, in accordance with the St. Louis monetary plank, to drop all further agitation of the silver question.

AN UNDERSTANDING WITH SPAIN.

The government at Madrid has explicitly declared that the Spanish minister at Washington has cabled that Secretary Olney declares Spain may rest tranquil during the remainder of Mr. Cleveland's term as President, as he will not recognize Cuban independence, nor interfere in Cuban affairs.

The Spanish government is straining every nerve to crush the revolution before the incoming of the new administration, so that President McKinley may be deprived of any pretext for taking up the cause of the Cuban republic.

The people of the United States will not hear with pleasure that there is an understanding between this government and that of Spain. They feel that the United States should give its moral support and encouragement to a republic rather than a monarchy; and especially one as bigoted and tyrannical as that of Spain.

The Cleveland administration has thus lost its last chance of rehabilitation in the respect of the American people. It is treating the Cuban republic as it did the republic of Hawaii.

Weyler has been finding many things displeasing to him in the American press of late, and has made the censorship of press reports more rigid than ever. But that won't prevent the newspapers from getting the facts, and roasting the bloody-minded butcher to the queen's taste.

The product of the dairies of the country is placed at $450,000,000 annually. This sum is based on watered stock.

Mr. Olney is evidently doing Mr. Cleveland's thinking for him on the Cuban question.

OFFICIAL VOTE FOR PRESIDENT BY STATES.

States.	McKinley.	Bryan.	Palmer.	Levering.	Matchett.
Alabama	54,737	131,219	6,464	2,147	....
Arkansas	37,512	110,103	896	859	....
California	146,688	144,766	....	2,578	....
Colorado	26,271	161,266	....	1,717	160
Connecticut	110,297	56,740	4,336	1,809	1,228
Delaware	20,452	16,615	956	602	....
Florida	11,359	32,213	1,778	868	....
Georgia	60,101	94,252	2,708	....	....
Idaho	6,324	23,192	....	181	....
Illinois	607,130	466,703	6,390	9,796	1,147
Indiana	323,719	305,771	2,145	3,059	335
Iowa	289,293	223,741	4,519	3,102	453
Kansas	158,541	171,810	1,200	2,351	....
Kentucky	218,171	217,890	5,114	4,781	....
Louisiana	22,037	77,096	1,810	....	....
Maine	80,241	34,594	1,884	1,571	....
Maryland	136,979	104,743	2,507	5,928	888
Massachusetts	278,976	105,711	11,749	2,938	2,114
Michigan	293,327	237,351	6,930	4,988	....
Minnesota	193,501	139,916	3,202	4,343	887
Mississippi	4,739	63,574	1,021	300	....
Missouri	304,940	363,032	2,355	3,169	616
Montana	10,490	42,680	....	....	....
Nebraska	102,564	115,024	2,797	1,196	176
Nevada	1,938	8,377	....	....	....
New Hampshire	57,444	21,650	3,420	175	228
New Jersey	221,367	133,675	6,373	5,614	3,085
New York	819,838	551,513	18,972	16,075	17,731
North Carolina	155,222	174,488	578	695	....
North Dakota	20,226	20,989	....	305	....
Ohio	525,845	478,547	1,831	5,020	1,165
Oregon	48,711	46,739	974	949	....
Pennsylvania	728,300	442,127	11,000	12,274	1,688
Rhode Island	37,437	11,450	1,166	1,190	558
South Carolina	9,313	58,801	824	....	....
South Dakota	40,802	40,930	....	992	....
Tennessee	148,773	186,176	1,051	3,688	....
Texas	164,886	368,289	5,080	1,785	....
Utah	13,461	67,053	....	....	....
Vermont	50,951	10,607	1,329	728	....
Virginia	135,588	154,985	2,127	2,341	115
Washington	39,153	51,648	1,968	886	....
West Virginia	104,414	82,927	967	1,023	....
Wisconsin	268,535	165,528	4,584	7,503	1,014
Wyoming	10,072	10,855	....	159	....
Totals	7,109,480	6,508,681	132,056	127,174	33,942

McKinley's plurality, 600,799.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

All doubt as to the fate of the Dingley tariff bill was removed on Wednesday. In the course of a rather acrimonious debate upon the question of tariff legislation, Senator Gorman said that the majority could not afford to pass the Dingley bill and disturb the business of the country at the next session, and, moreover, that the minority would not permit that to be done. This announcement led to the statement by Senator Platt, of Connecticut, that the Republicans never did have the votes to pass the bill, and had even less now than they ever had before. Finally Senator Sherman gave the bill the coup de grace by declaring that the Dingley bill could not be passed, and that it was useless to waste time over it. Meanwhile, the ways and means committee of the House will go on with hearings looking to the preparation of a new tariff bill to be passed at the extra session.

The Senate on Thursday passed by a large majority the Lodge bill, which amends the act of March 3, 1891, by adding to the classes of aliens thereby excluded from admission to the United States all persons over sixteen years of age who can not read write the language of their native country or some other language, though providing that an admissible immigrant over such age of sixteen may bring in with him or send for his wife or parent, or grandparent, or minor child or grandchild, notwithstanding the inability to read and write. The test of ability to read is to be made on printed slips, each containing five lines of the constitution of the United States in the various languages of the immigrants. It is provided that the act shall not apply to inhabitants of Cuba arriving from there during the continuance of the present disorders. The bill just passed by the Senate is a substitute for the bill dealing with the same subject passed by the House in May last. A conference committee will pass upon the points of difference between the two measures, and it is expected that little difficulty will be experienced in disposing of them.

The failure of the wire nail, steel rail and practically of the billet pools is followed by a drop of $3 per ton in the price of steel rails within twenty-four hours of the meeting of the pool, almost before the adjournment of the latter body. Evidently the industries of the country which are in any way dependent on iron and steel are to have an opportunity to supply themselves with raw material on a reasonably low plane of prices. This would seem to be for the best interests of the entire business community, in that it would be placing the prices of the products in question more nearly on a parity than they have been with quotations in other lines. Railroad companies have bought only sufficient rails the past twelve months to cover actual needs, owing to the high price fixed by the pool. The consumption of steel rails for 1896 will amount to about 800,000 tons. Ordinarily the annual domestic consumption of steel rails is calculated at about 2,000,000 tons.

The pool consists of the Carnegie, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Cambria, Bethlehem, Lackawanna, Maryland and Ohio steel companies. The Ohio Steel company agreed to make no rails, for which it receives "a fixed amount for each ton of its allotment." The rail pool was organized in November of 1896, and from a price which then hovered near $20 a ton put up the price to $22. From that figure the price has been advanced until $28 a ton was the price early this year. "The railroads had no recourse, as every rail concern in the country belonged to the pool. They decreased their purchases as the price went up, and this year they purchased fewer rails than for some years. When the Ohio Steel company erected its plant at Youngstown it was hoped that it would break the railroad pool, but it became a member of the pool. Iron and steel people think the present cut in price will improve business. The reduction is expected to increase the drain upon raw materials, and consequently soften the general market. Already there is an effort making to revive the steel billet pool.

For the benefit of those who think that the meaning of the so called short crop of wheat in the United States has been fully discounted by the advance in prices, it is in order to explain that it is the unexpected which generally happens. Various estimates of the American wheat reserves this year place them far below quantities held at like periods for many years—some say 65,000,000 bushels less than last year. One of the best indications of this is found in very small receipts at primary markets, notwithstanding comparatively high prices. In commenting on this situation, Bsorbohm writes, December 4, that "it is therefore quite reasonable to expect that America may, at a given time, find itself absolutely independent and in a position to demand, practically, its own price for its wheat." It should also be remembered that the present season differs from previous ones in that both India and Australia are importers, instead of exporters, of wheat.

The American Federation of Labor by a vote of 1,935 to 202 declared for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, pledged its support to any party so declaring, unanimously re-elected President Gompers, unanimously fired Secretary McGrath, generously declined to censure the supreme court after a hot debate, and decided to meet next year at Nashville.

In his address before the convention, President Gompers spoke of what has been and what should be done in the direction of securing an eight-hour working day. He suggested the issuance of pamphlets, circulars and other literature upon the advantages of the shorter work-day, requesting all public speakers, newspapers and the labor press to make the aims and purposes of the eight-hour movement the theme of a simultaneous discourse, the issuance of circulars to the employers generally and directly, requesting the concession of the eight-hour work-day, the appointment of committees by local central bodies and local trade unions to wait upon employers with a view of securing the eight-hour work-day with out cessation of work, the furnishing by officers of national, international and local trade unions of data as to the progress made in the matter of organization and preparation for the inauguration of a general movement to reduce the hours of labor, and the recommending to all organizations that an effort be made to secure a reduction in the hours of labor at as early a time as possible, and particularly during the spring, or May 1, 1897.

The tenth annual report of the interstate commerce commission gives a summary of the replies received from 1,680 companies in response to a request of the commission in April last, asking the carriers to show how far up to that time their equipment had been made to conform to the requirements of sections 1 and 2 of the safety appliance act, relating to couplers and train brakes, which become effective January 1, 1898. It appears that 80.53 per cent of the 35,892 locomotives mentioned in these replies have driving wheel brakes. Of the 33,323 passenger cars reported in use, 97.02 per cent have automatic couplers, and 98.91 per cent are fitted with train brakes. 1,217,064 freight cars are reported, of which 29.88 per cent have train brakes, and 37.41 per cent are equipped with automatic couplers.

The National Wool Growers' Association of the United States, which met last week in Washington, adopted resolutions recognizing the desirability of "immediate action to prevent the flood of speculative imports of foreign wools," which would occur in advance of a proposed increase of duties, and insisting upon the speedy preparation and passage of a law which shall give to the wool growers the "most ample protection" promised by the St. Louis platform. Resolutions were also adopted urging Congress to incorporate in any tariff bill that may be passed this session or next the wool schedules adopted by the Wool Growers' association at its meeting held in Washington in December, 1895.

You can now make a note of it for future reference that the total vote of the country in the late Presidential election was 13,924,653. The number of ballots cast but not counted, owing to defective marking and for other reasons, must have aggregated nearly a million. Those thrown out in New York state alone numbered 122,080, or nearly 10 per cent of the whole vote cast. Every campaign of education hereafter should give a special course of instruction in how to mark a ballot.

Seven states cast a less vote in 1896 than in 1892. They are Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. In the four Southern states the shortage was mainly due to changes in the registration. In Nevada and New Hampshire the population is nearly stationary or decreasing. As to Maine, no satisfactory explanation has been offered except that in 1892 the vote of the state was tremendous and in 1896 it wasn't.

If we may credit the news from Manila, the revolt in the Philippine Islands has grown until the insurgents are perhaps 100,000 strong, while the capital is repeatedly fired upon at night by raiding bands. There, as in Cuba, the Spanish fleet controls the seaboard and the ports, but in the interior the insurrection flourishes. Cavite, only a few miles from Manila, is still held by its Spanish garrison, but is surrounded by rebels, who occasionally move toward the capital and skirmish with its outposts.

The serious character of the revolt is further suggested by the additional forces which Spain finds it necessary to send to the Philippines, these being reckoned at 10,000, although many have already gone. They may be neutralized by two other sources of trouble already in prospect, one being the apprehended defection of the native contingent, which would be a heavy blow to spain, and the other a revolt in the Carolines and Mariannes.

These events in Spain's Pacific colonies, important in themselves, become doubly so from their influence upon the struggle in Cuba, by calling away troops and ships that otherwise would be available for that island. Spain may lose both her colonies, although should she soon relinquish her hold on the Antilles she would have troops enough to retain it in the Philippines.

It is almost pitiable to see the trouble the French government has to keep up its naval construction policy. The demand for new ships is urgent, but the funds required to build them are not easily obtained. M. Lockroy's proposal to expend 200,000,000 francs in construction during the next four years, a per annum outlay of only $10,000,000, which would give the government only twelve battleships at the close of the century, leaving it with those now under construction in a reduced state of utility, was opposed by the ministry as bitterly as if the amount of revenue to be consumed in carrying out his proposal was twice or thrice as large. The government undoubtedly rejected the plan for reasons of economy. But it was compelled, before receiving the support of the Chamber of Deputies for its wish, to consent to an increase in the appropriations for new ships under the next budget. It found itself, in other words, under the necessity of promising to add new ships to the navy in order to remain in power. Yet M. Melias knows well that it is going to be more difficult to raise an extra $10,000,000 for this purpose in 1897 than it is at present.

Politics seems to be in an exciting condition in Italy. At least the Italian legislators are not in a mood to tolerate differences of opinion with regard to the usefulness of the monarchy, since a Socialist speech in the Chamber of Deputies led to a free fight in which several members were severely handled. When such things happen in a republic the danger of republican institutions is supposed to be illustrated. However, large assemblies of men, republican or otherwise, are much the same when they get fairly angry. Even the most dignified legislative body in the world, the British House of Commons, has more than once been disgraced by personal violence.

What particular good it will do the Irish party or parties in Parliament to "get together" just now we need not inquire too curiously, but the desire of the leaders on all sides to stop fighting among themselves is surely commendable. It must be remembered that there are now not only Parnellites and anti-Parnellites, but that the anti-Parnellites themselves are subdivided into Healyites and Dillonites. Mr. Healy, however, is in a pacific mood, and is ready to sacrifice himself for the good of the cause, and that in spite of abuse and cries of Judas from some of his compatriots. Unfortunately for him and for

Publishers' Column.

WALTHAM AND ELGIN WATCHES.

Some months ago, after supplying our readers several thousand good watches at wholesale prices, we discontinued the offer. For a few weeks we shall offer the following small list much below our former prices owing to reduction of certain grades by the manufacturer. A couple will be recognized as standard watches of our former list. The others are good grades at reduced prices.

OFFER NO. 8.—BLADE SPECIAL.

Open Face or Hunting Case, Waltham or Elgin Works—Be Sure to Name Your Choice When You Order.

A $200 solid gold watch cannot be bought for $20—but the Weekly Blade offers a watch under the above number which has all the appearances and most of the good qualities of a $200 watch. You have probably never seen a watch like this and must therefore depend upon us for the description of the latest, handsomest and best watch made by the great American Waltham and Elgin factories. Time and money have been spent in bringing this particular watch to perfection. The movement for workst contains 15 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion, patent regulator, and all improvements. The case is the thinnest filled watch case ever made. Remember, we mean that the watch when closed in the pocket is thin. The lids of the case are the usual thickness and form a perfect protection for the movement. The case is made of a plate of fine composition metal, over which two heavy sheets of 14k. gold are drawn, making a case that is for all purposes as good as gold, and warranted for 20 years. Every part which is subjected to constant wear, such as the ring, thumb piece, joint plugs, hinges, etc., is of solid gold. The works are especially recommended where the most accurate time is required. This is just the watch for doctors, lawyers, clergymen, county commissioners, and all others who wish a really first-class article. As a present it cannot be excelled. It is so slim and convenient in form that it will even make a good and satisfactory ladies' watch, and it is especially recommended for school teachers and other professional women on account of its accuracy, which is equalled by no watch made especially for ladies.

We will send this watch, open face or hunting case, as desired, by registered mail to any of our subscribers for $20.

No. 333.

No. 333 is one of the finest gentlemen's watches we have ever offered. The movements, either Waltham or Elgin, are full jeweled, and are guaranteed perfect timekeepers. The case is of the finest gold-filled, and guaranteed to wear the same as solid gold for 15 years. The price of this watch in open face is $13.50, and in hunting case, $16.50.

Lady's Watches, Waltham or Elgin, $20.00.

No. 15.—The works are manufactured at Waltham or Elgin. They are made of the finest materials carefully selected. The jewels are all cut and polished in Europe, where secret processes are handed down from generation to generation. The dial is made of the finest porcelain, and the hands made of the finest steel. The case is solid of blue tempered steel. The case is solid 14k. United States assay, handsomely engraved. This watch is a stem winder and setter and hunting case. We will send this watch, delivery guaranteed, for $20.

No. 16.—The works of No. 16 are the same as No. 15, but the case is gold filled, 14k., guaranteed to wear just like solid gold for 20 years. The joints, pings and parts exposed to unusual wear are solid gold. It is hunting case, and is handsomely engraved. Sent by registered mail, delivery guaranteed, for $15.

Gentlemen's Watches.

No. 200.—Solid gold 40 dwt. hunting case with Elgin or Waltham works, 18 size, 14 karat, and guaranteed timekeeper, sent by registered mail to any part of the United States for $32.50.

No. 201.—Gold filled Elgin or Waltham watch, 18 size, open face case, guaranteed for 15 years. The movement or works contain seven jewels. This watch will be sent to any subscriber of This Blade in perfect order, delivery guaranteed, for $10.

Address all orders:

THE BLADE,
Toledo, Ohio.

FAMOUS BATTLE PICTURES.

Owing to a popular demand from our subscribers, and especially from members of the G. A. R., we have arranged with a large publisher for a quantity of pictures of the most celebrated battles of the civil war. These pictures are of a high grade, chromo colors, large size (22x28), reproduced from the original oil paintings with wonderful accuracy. More than 100,000 have been sold during the past year at one dollar each, and our price to any person who orders a picture alone will be one dollar. But we did not get these pictures for sale or for profit. We propose to give one picture free, postpaid by mail, to every person sending us $1 for the Weekly Blade one year. If your time expires soon, you can obtain a picture when you renew. If your time expires some time hence, and you want a picture now, send a dollar, and let us extend your time a year ahead from date of expiration. Or, get us a new subscriber and we will enter the new name for Blade one year, and send the picture to the remitter, if so directed. However, we are confident those who obtain one picture, will want several more, or perhaps all of them. You can obtain them one at a time by sending us new dollar subscribers. Try one of them when you renew.

NOTICE, however, that the above offer is only to those who send us $1 for subscription or renewal after this date.

Here is the list, make your selection from it:

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.
Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
Battle of Five Forks, Va.
Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tenn.
Battle of The Wilderness, Va.
Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.
Battle of Champion Hill, Miss.
Battle of Antietam, Md.
Battle of Atlanta, Ga.
Battle of Spottsylvania, Va.
Battle of Vicksburg, Miss.
Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Resaca, Ga.
Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tenn.
Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.
Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.
Battle of Bunker Hill.
Battle of Tippecanoe.
Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.
Battle of Ten Ridge, Ark.
Battle of Bull's Run, Va.
Battle of Chancellorsville, Va.
Battle of Big Horn (Custer's Last Charge)
Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.
Blowing of Fort Wagner, S. C.
Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C.
Battle of New Orleans, La.
Battle of Cedar Creek, Va.
Capture and Death of Sitting Bull.
Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.
Battle of Stone River, Tenn.
Assault on Fort Sanders, Tenn.
Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
Battle of Nashville, Tenn.
Battle of Corinth, Miss.
Terry's Victory on Lake Erie.
Fort Pillow Massacre, Tenn.
Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.
Battle of Williamsburg, Va.
Fall of Petersburg, Va.
Battle of Opequan or Winchester, Va.

We also add a half dozen celebrated foreign battle pictures:

Battle of Gravelotte.
Battle of Mars-La-Tour.
Die Hermann's Schlacht.
Battle near Orleans.
Battle of Fontenoy.

Order by name of battle, give plainly postoffice address for picture as well as The Blade.

Address THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

MACAULAY'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

Five Volumes, Paper Cover, Containing Over 2,200 Pages.

We offer this cheap edition of the most renowned of all historical works at a price that should place a set in the hands of every Blade reader. We will send a set, postpaid by mail, to every person who will remit us one dollar for the Weekly Blade one year, and ask for this work as a premium. We will mail the five volumes without The Blade, on receipt of 80 cents. Address

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and is sufficient in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1 25
¼ dozen teaspoons	35
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2 35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1 00
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2 00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1 15
1 dozen table knives	2 25
1 dozen table knives, extra heavy	2 75

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

CHAMBERS'S CYCLOPAEDIA

And The Weekly Blade One Year for Three Dollars.

The original edition of this sold at $30 per set. A reprint of the Edinburgh and London edition, with additions upon topics of special interest to American readers, and giving American statistics of population down to and including the census of 1890.

This great Encyclopaedia contains thousands upon thousands of articles, embracing all subjects within the limits of human knowledge in its more than 27,000 specially prepared articles, giving pointed, practical, explicit and most up-to-date and instructive information both for the student and the general reader, free from ambiguous technicalities.

This is a new edition, revised in 1891, reset in clear but fine type. It comprises THIRTY small, compact volumes in paper covers, and the 30 books will weigh about 13 pounds.

READ OUR OFFER!

We will send a full set of this edition of Chambers' Encyclopaedia, comprising 30 volumes, and a copy of the Weekly Blade one year for THREE DOLLARS.

Or, we will send the Encyclopaedia alone for $2.50.

The Encyclopaedia will be sent by mail, postage paid. Address The Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS

Splendid Offer to Lady Readers of The Blade.

NO. 6916—LADIES' WAIST, WITH BOLERO AND GIRDLE.

The exquisite design here represented embraces the latest fad in the bolero jacket and wrinkled girdle belt. Glace silk was chosen for the waist, the ground of fawn, showing stripes of golden brown.

The waist is arranged over fitted linings, which close in center front. The jacket fronts in rounded bolero style are trimmed with iridescent jeweled passementerie while the free edges are outlined with a quilling of brown satin ribbon. The full front of tan chiffon is gathered at the neck and waist line, falling in pretty folds to the top of the deep girdle belt, the closing being effected invisibly in center.

The back, smooth-fitting across the shoulders, has the fulness drawn well to the center in overlapping plaits at the lower edge.

6916—Ladies' Waist With Bolero and Girdle.

The girdle of satin is deepest in center front, where the fluted edges conceal the closing. The sleeves, mounted over coat-shaped lining, are wrinkled from wrists to a little above the elbow, where they stand out well from the shoulders in moderate fulness, according to the latest style. A standing collar which is covered with a stock of brown taffeta ribbon ending in a large bow at back of neck.

Elaborately trimmed, the waist may be worn at dinner, informal luncheon or tea, while developed in subdued colors or less expensive materials, it will be equally appropriate for completing a street toilette.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size, it will require three yards of 44-inch wide material. The pattern, No. 6916, can be had in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust measure, and retails for 25 cents.

NO. 6909—MISSES' BASQUE WITH FULL VEST.

Chestnut-brown wool canvas and velvet in a darker shade are stylishly combined in this modish basque, suitable for a young miss. The fronts open over a full vest of figured taffeta which is arranged upon a glove-fitted lining and closes in center front. A deep folded belt of velvet confines the front at waist line, while a standing collar and stock completes the neck.

Velvet is applied to the reversed portion of the jacket fronts, rolling back in handsome lapels that extend to a distance below the waist line where the fronts are stylishly pointed. The easy and graceful-fitting back has the usual number of seams and is sprung below the waist line in ripple effect. The sleeves are comfortably fitted from the

6909—Misses' Basque with Full Vest.

wrists to above the elbow according to the present taste. Gathers adjust the fullness at the top and the wrists are decorated with flaring cuffs.

The mode is adapted to all seasonable fabrics and suggests stylish combinations of contrasting material with velvet or silk trimming.

To make this basque for a miss in the medium size it will require 2¾ yards of 44-inch wide material. The pattern, No. 6909, is cut in sizes for misses of ten, twelve, fourteen and sixteen years, and retails for twenty-five cents.

READ THE OFFER:

The above pattern or patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. We will fill orders from any person, whether a regular or occasional reader of The Blade. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose ten cents silver for each pattern wanted, (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). Give both title and number of pattern. No coupon required.

Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the name and names of the pieces of fabrics in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not inquire of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

A package of publications from L. Prang & Co., Boston, is always sure to be a welcome spring of pleasure to those who enjoy beautiful things. This year those for the holidays are sure to win the favor always accorded to them, and the fact that all of the work is done in this country will not diminish their value.

Among the prettiest are the Calendars for 1897. Of these the following are, perhaps, the most attractive: Hearth's Ease, in which ranslies play a conspicuous part in the decorations. The Christian Endeavor Calendar, also with purple and yellow ranslies and tied with lilac ribbon; The Lover's Calendar and the Bicycle Calendar, both artistic and attractive.

A most beautiful booklet is Songs of the Birthdays, by Ernest Warburton Shurtleff. A full-page picture representing the "bairn" born on each day of the week, and followed by a page bearing a fanciful verse expressive of the disposition and character of the child are all put together and tied with lemon yellow ribbon. Another pretty booklet is entitled Carnations. L. Prang & Co., Boston.

Captain Kore's Courtship, by T. Jenkins Hains belongs to the series of lively little stories that make up The Lotus Library. The story is told in the first person and claims upon the title page to be "His Narrative of the Capture of the Clipper Conerative of the Capture of the Clipper Conerative of the Capture of the Countess of Warwick," "as set down by his friend and counsel," whose name is appended as the author, J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, are the publishers.

In dainty covers of delft blue and white appear the collection of Robert Loveman's poems. Written with real poetic feeling showing a certain fire and delicacy these verses will make one of the most charming contributions to the holiday fiction.

The J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.

Very dainty and very interesting is the Robert C. Morris. It is really an interesting Dragoons and Cherry Blossoms, by Mrs. Hiuto book in green and gold, entitled, account of a visit to, and residence in, Japan; but the style of narration, and the method of illustration are peculiar and attractive. There are more than 50 pretty pictures, giving one a very good idea of the ways of the marvellously prepossessing islanders. The book is printed on heavy white paper, in large type, and with wide margins on every page. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York city.

A Golden Autumn, by Mrs. Alexander, is a story of English society life from the prolific pen of an author who always finds many readers. In this story a bright, beautiful girl, who belonged to a different class from her husband's people, but who had money and youth and a warm heart devoted to the man she married. He did not value the love he had won, and was needlessly ashamed of her impulsive ways, which he feared would be thought bourgeois. As a consequence coldness came into her regard for him, and trouble into their relations. The story is full of incident and ends well. J. B. Lippincott company, Philadelphia, are the publishers.

The Ship's Company and Other Sea People, by J. D. Jerrold Kelley, U. S. N., contains eight articles about life on the water board, the great Atlantic liners, the yachts and the men-of-war. These articles are general in character and are profusely illustrated. The style of Lieut. Commander Kelley is very good, and he contrives to lend interest to the most prosaic details. A few among the most striking passages are: Getting a great ship out of the Liverpool docks; the engine room and stoke hole; opening of the yachting season; the regatta; the midshipman as described by Marryat and his life; the boy in the Naval Academy at Annapolis; the fatality of cats; missionaries; flogging; and the story of Dennis, the pet pig. The Spirit of Libogen is a most strange and weird tale. Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, New York.

A most delightful little book for social purposes is A Second Century of Charades, by William Bellamy. The key number to each charade is given and the dainty volume is complete in all its details. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

To their excellent series, Studies in English Classics, the firm of Silver Burdett & Co. have recently added Midsummer Night's Dream and the Tempest, ably edited with notes by Homer B. Sprague, A. M., Ph. D. Silver Burdett & Co., Boston.

Solomon Crow's Christmas Pockets, and Other Tales, by Ruth McEnery Stuart, is a book of delightful stories, the scene of which is New Orleans and the country near. They deal chiefly with negro types, and they show both humor and pathos. In Solomon Crow a negro boy is deceived by fairies and reformed by the efforts of a lady. His confession and the restoration of his pockets are amusing. In the Two Tims a banjo plays an important part, and the description of the instrument and the partnership in it are both good. In the Frey's Christmas Party some poor children entertain their poor neighbors. Little Mother Quackelina is the story of a duck which hatched out guinea fowl chicks and afterwards recovered her ducklings. It will interest children. In Old Easter the description of the old woman's home and the unfortunates she supported has also been considered one of the best bits of the author's work. St. Idyl's Light is a touching story of a child's sacrifice during the war. Blink is the tale of a young girl's struggle to support her infirm father and the help she got from her old colored "Mammy." In Duke's Christmas an old colored man and his grandson find their "white" people once more through the medium of a Christmas present. All the stories are published two of the author's poems. Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, New York.

Tales From Ohio History, by W. H. Venable, comes in a pretty little volume exceedingly attractive in its outward appearance, while the contents written for the home and school are full of interest. The stories, the author says, are authentic as to essential facts, but touched slightly here and there by the imagination in order to give life and reality to the record. The period imperfectly covered by this series of sketches is that beginning with La Salles' discovery of the Ohio river, and ending with Wayne's victory. This is the author of the heroic age of the Old Northwest. This little volume will give the young people a good idea of those times. Several pieces of verse are introduced in order to preserve what may be called the folk-lore of Ohio. The Laning Printing Co., Norwalk, O.

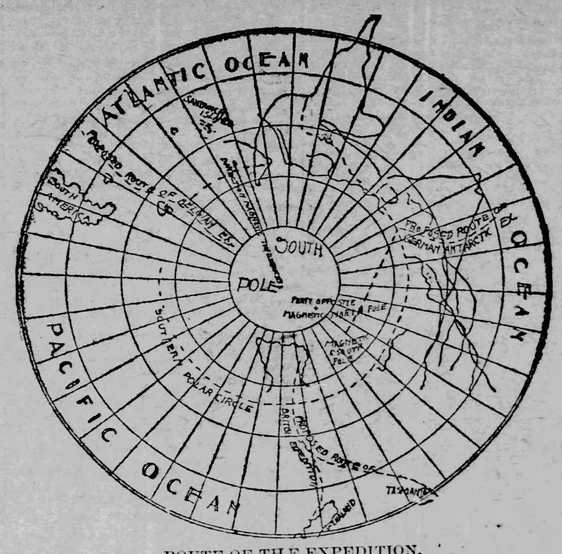
Harper's Round Table for 1896 includes 1,276 pages, copiously illustrated. The special features of this book are that it contains three complete books for boys—For King or Country, a story of the American Revolution, by James Barnes; Rick Dale, a story of adventure in the Northwest, by Kirk Munroe; and A Virginia Cavalier, without question the best historical story of the boyhood of George Washington yet written, by Molly Elliot Seawell. Besides these long stories, there are shorter stories of from five to fifteen chapters, as follows: Crossing the Xuacaxella, a story of Western camp life, by Capt. John Bigelow, jr.; The Middle Daughter, a story for girls, by Margaret E. Sangster; and The Voyage of the Ribtrap, a humorous story of a pratic schooner, by Hayden Carruth. A great deal of the volume are taken up with 100 short stories, and about 150 pages on modern outdoor athletic games. There are also several interesting series of articles, such as Pen Pictures of Famous Boys, by Irvin Wallace, which are five articles telling some of the famous stories of the Tower of London; The American Nights' Entertainments, by Mrs. Emma J. Gray, a series of twelve articles on getting up entertainments for young people, each article describing amusements suitable for one month in the year. Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York.

Tales From a Mother of Pearl Casket, by Amanda Franco, of the French Academy, translated by Henri Pene Du Bois, is a collection of sixteen tales, and every one of them is an excellent example of the literary art with which they are written. The stories are amusing as stories, and may be read and re-read with renewed pleasure; the style is charming, the personages are as alert and active as the phases, and the book is an example of faultless artifice. Published by George H. Richmond & Co., New York.

Elementary Meteorology, for high schools and colleges, by Frank Waldo, Ph. D., assistant professor in the United States signal service, is a new text book of what is essentially a modern science. Within our time the most wonderful advancement has been made in the study and observation of atmospheric phenomena. The result is that meteorology has become an applied science of the greatest importance to man. Its usefulness is seen in the numerous and supported bars also has been considered one of the best bits of the author's work. St. Idyl's Light is a touching story of a child's sacrifice during the war. Blink is the tale of a young girl's struggle to support her infirm father and the help she got from her old colored "Mammy." In Duke's Christmas an old colored man and his grandson find their "white" people once more through the medium of a Christmas present. All the stories are published two of the author's poems. Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, New York.

Tales From Ohio History, by W. H. Venable, comes in a pretty little volume exceedingly attractive in its outward appearance, while the contents written for the home and school are full of interest. The stories, the author says, are authentic as to essential facts, but touched slightly here and there by the imagination in order to give life and reality to the record. The period imperfectly covered by this series of sketches is that beginning with La Salles' discovery of the Ohio river, and ending with Wayne's victory. This is the author of the heroic age of the Old Northwest. This little volume will give the young people a good idea of those times. Several pieces of verse are introduced in order to preserve what may be called the folk-lore of Ohio. The Laning Printing Co., Norwalk, O.

Harper's Round Table for 1896 includes 1,276 pages, copiously illustrated. The special features of this book are that it contains three complete books for boys—For King or Country, a story of the American Revolution, by James Barnes; Rick Dale, a story of adventure in the Northwest, by Kirk Munroe; and A Virginia Cavalier, without question the best historical story of the boyhood of George Washington yet written, by Molly Elliot Seawell. Besides these long stories, there are shorter stories of from five to fifteen chapters, as follows: Crossing the Xuacaxella, a story of Western camp life, by Capt. John Bigelow, jr.; The Middle Daughter, a story for girls, by Margaret E. Sangster; and The Voyage of the Ribtrap, a humorous story of a pratic schooner, by Hayden Carruth. A great deal of the volume are taken up with 100 short stories, and about 150 pages on modern outdoor athletic games. There are also several interesting series of articles, such as Pen Pictures of Famous Boys, by Irvin Wallace, which are five articles telling some of the famous stories of the Tower of London; The American Nights' Entertainments, by Mrs. Emma J. Gray, a series of twelve articles on getting up entertainments for young people, each article describing amusements suitable for one month in the year. Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York.

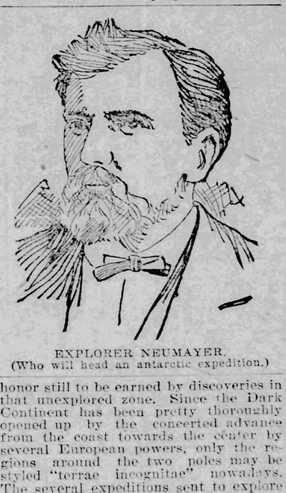


ROUTE OF THE EXPEDITION.

THE SOUTH POLE.

Expeditions Organizing to Penetrate Antartic Seas.

The exploration of the regions around the south pole has been comparatively neglected, while much attention has been given to the pole of the northern hemisphere. The German geographers' convention has, therefore, taken up the question and decided to send an expedition into the Antarctic Ocean, fitted for scientific work, which would secure for the German nation a proper share of the



EXPLORER NEUMAYER.
(Who will head an antarctic expedition.)

honor still to be earned by discoveries in that unexplored zone. Since the Dark Continent has been pretty thoroughly opened up by the concerted advance from the coast towards the center by several European powers, only the regions around the two poles may be styled "terrae incognitae" nowadays. The several expeditions sent to explore the Arctic Ocean and continents have penetrated within a few degrees of the farthest point reached by man, being 86 degrees and 15 minutes, recorded by Fritjof Nansen during the voyage from which he but recently returned.

A high official of the German admiralty, Counselor Neumayer, of Hamburg, who for 40 years has advocated the importance of Antarctic exploration, has at last succeeded in getting his plan of an Antarctic expedition accepted by the German geographers' convention, and it is now on the threshold of realization. Two ships will be sent conjointly. At a proper point of the Antarctic zone a spot is to be selected for a wintering station, and one of the ships is to remain there, while the other vessel will go on the real voyage of discovery. In this way the many scientific problems, comprising questions pertaining to geography, meteorology, the magnetism of the earth, zoology, botany, mineralogy, geology, and the theory of the formation of icebergs will best be served. The expedition will remain away for three years. With this plan it is hoped to achieve a great deal, and as far as human foresight goes there is every reason to insure the safe return of the party.

The picture offered by a map of the Antarctic regions shows a condition vastly different from that existing in the north. Firstly, there are no continents reaching nearer than the 55th degree latitude south toward the south pole. The southern polar circle has been crossed several times, but only one exception, that of James Ross, succeeded in discovering what appeared to be a continent, Victoria Land. It did not effect a landing on its stormy and inhospitable shores, covered by alternate glaciers and volcanoes. While many parties of explorers spent a winter or more in the Arctic region nobody ever attempted to remain any length of time on the Antarctic continent, let alone to winter there or to make a dash for the south pole across the unknown icy interstice. Not we know about the polar region of the southern hemisphere is, with few exceptions, due more to the accidental discoveries of whalers and sealers having penetrated to the far south in quest of their trade rather than to scientific explorers.

THE MENDICANTS.

We are as mendicants who wait
Along the roadside in the sun,
Tatters of rags yesterday and shreds
Of morrow clothe us every one.
And some are dotards, who believe
And glory in the days of old,
While some are boasters, harping still
Upon an unknown age of gold.
Hopeless or witless! Not one heeds,
As lavish Time comes down the way
And tosses in the sunlight rare
Our great new-minted gold to-day.

But there be others, happier far,
The vagabondish sons of God,
Who know the by-ways and the flowers,
And care not how the world may plod,
They idle down the traffic lanes,
And loiter through the woods with spring;
To them the glory of the earth
Is but to hear a bluebird sing.
They, too, receive each one his day;
But their wise heart knows many things
Beyond the eating of desire,
Above the dignity of kings.
One I remember kept his coin.
And, laughing, flinged it in the air,
But when two strolling pipe-players
Came by he tossed it to the pair.
Spendthrift of joy his childish heart
Danced to their wild outlandish bars;
Then supperless he laid him down,
That night and slept beneath the stars.
—Bliss Carman.

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND.

There's a beautiful legend—never outworn—
A flower of the East too lovely to die—
That if children on Christmas look up in the morn
They will see out of heaven a child-angel fly,
Who with voice sweet and clear through the bright air will sing,
I am Christ!
I am Christ!
Comes your Christmas to bring.

And children believe that the legend is true,
For I saw but to-night in a little child's eyes
A rapture so strange, it seemed as he knew
He should see on the morrow this Christ in the skies.
And hear through the bright air His wondrous voice sing,
I am Christ!
I am Christ!
Comes your Christmas to bring.

And I joyed in his faith, for his look as he smiled—
Awaiting transfigured the vision on high—
Was not only the look of a beautiful child,
But that of an angel longing to fly.
Who heard even then the wondrous voice sing,
I am Christ!
I am Christ!
Comes your Christmas to bring.
—Mrs. Whitton Stone in Boston Transcript.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

There was a young girl named Slaughter,
Who was of pie fellows to caughter,
But a country "Gol durn"
Had money to burn,
And she stuck like a brick to the naughter.
—New York Evening World.

When in the brassy skies above
No hope or help I see,
I gladly seek the girl I love,
She's always cool in misery.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

He (playfully)—How old are you, Miss Browne?

She—I can not tell a lie. I—

"Oh, if that is the case, I will not take a mean advantage of you. I withdraw the question."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Soon will the man who vends the coal
Vow that revenge is nice,
Since he has burned a stranger in control
Of him who sold the ice.
—Washington Star.

Winter Visitor to Florida—I should love dearly to go sailing, but it looks very dangerous. Do not people often get drowned in this bay?

Waterman—No, indeed, mum; the sharks never lets anybody drown.—Tid Bits.

Ethel—How did Blanche manage to get a husband?

Maud—She utilized a matrimonial agency.

Ethel—You don't say so! Which agency?

Maud—A hammock.—Pick-Me-Up.

Tenderfoot—I don't understand the epitaph on this tombstone. It says: "He talked himself to death." How's that?

Bronco Pete—That's right. He called Alkali Ike a liar.—Chicago Tribune.

CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

The "No. 290" and the Name "Alabama" of Two Vessels.

An interesting coincidence with regard to one of Uncle Sam's newest war vessels, the Alabama, has escaped the notice of the chroniclers of naval news and gossip.

"How many war vessels and merchantmen have you built in your shipyards?" was asked of Charles F. Cramp, at whose great shipyard the Alabama is being built.

"The Alabama will be our two hundred and ninetieth ship," was Mr. Cramp's reply. "And," he continued, "that figure '290' is especially noteworthy in this instance, because of an interesting fact and historical coincidence. The rebel cruiser Alabama was for a long while a 'nameless ship,' and her only designation was by number. The coincidence which strikes me as interesting is that the piratical Alabama was No. 290, and the new United States warship is No. 290. The rebel ship was the 290th ship built by the Lairds in England; Uncle Sam's new ship is the 290th vessel built in our yards at Philadelphia."—Washington letter to New York Tribune.

Liver Ills

Like biliousness, dyspepsia, headache, constipation, sour stomach, are promptly cured by Hood's Pills. They do their work easily

Hood's Pills

and thoroughly. Best after dinner pills. 25 cents. All druggists.

Prepared by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

The only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

HOW IT IS PRESERVED BY MODERN SCIENCE.

A Discovery That is Driving Disease Out of the World.

The world is startled almost every day by wonderful inventions all directed to the single purpose of saving power and force. The latest electrical wonder is a lamp which saves 12 per cent of the electricity which it uses and turns it

into light. An ordinary gas burner only gives 1 per cent of light from all the gas it uses up; the other 99 per cent is wasted and lost.

An incandescent lamp only gives 3 per cent of light from the electricity used; 97 per cent is lost. Where does it go to? Nobody knows. It disappears somewhere along the wire with nothing to show for it.

If science could find a way to save only half of this wasted power, that would solve the problem of lighting the civilized world. Nearly all the problems of life would be solved if we knew how to save the energy and force that is wasted.

The great problem of health would be solved if we knew how to save all the forceful, nutritive elements contained in the food we eat and turn them into life-power and vitality. If we could always do this—there would never be any more sickness.

Disease is simply the result of wasted power. When you are sick or "run down" or losing flesh and strength, it simply shows that most of the vital force which you ought to get from the food you eat is wasted and lost because the digestive and nutritive functions are only able to extract a very small percentage of the nourishment which the food contains.

That is why people grow thin and pale and emaciated in spite of the best food the market affords; that is why people die of consumption in spite of all the cod liver oil emulsions they can swallow.

For all chronic wasting diseases and broken down condition, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a thousand times better than any amount of fat-foods because this "Discovery" acts directly upon the nutritive organs and gives them power to obtain all the nutritions, force-giving elements out of every particle of food which is eaten, and to transform this nourishment into healthy vitality.

It strengthens the digestive fluids; helps the liver to clear out all bilious impurities; enables the blood-making glands to pour into the circulation a fresh supply of pure, rich, highly vitalized blood; which builds up new tissue, solid flesh and muscular energy.

It increases the percentage of nourishment so immensely that loss is turned into gain, the process of disease is completely reversed and turned into a process of health. Dr. Pierce's marvelous "Discovery" does for human life what the electricians are trying to do for illuminating science. It saves the life-power and energy that would otherwise be wasted.

It cures consumption after all the "emulsions" and all the other usual remedies have been tried in vain. It cures all those severe bronchial and throat affections, lingering coughs and obscure wasting diseases which will not yield to any other treatment. It cures skin and blood diseases, liver complaints and indigestion.

It restores a hearty appetite, sound sleep, a clear skin, natural color, active mental faculties and nerve-power. It does not make flabby fat—it only brings the weight to the standard of perfect health. For this reason it is the best tonic and strength-builder in the world for prominent people.

No physician in America has a higher reputation than Dr. Pierce for successful treatment of severe chronic diseases. For thirty years he has been chief consulting physician of the famous Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. His great thousand-page illustrated book, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser," contains more valuable information than any other popular medical work in the world; 680,000 copies were sold at $1.50 each; over of the paper-bound edition will be sent absolutely free to any one sending 21 one-cent stamps to pay the cost of mailing only. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. A cloth-bound copy will be sent for 10 cents extra (31 cents in all), to pay the extra expense of this handsome and more durable binding.

A CHILD'S TROUBLE.

I studied my tables over and over, and backward and forward, too;
But I couldn't remember six times nine, and
I really did not know what to do,
Till sister told me to play with my doll and not to bother my head.
"If you call her 'Fifty-four' for a while,
you'll learn it by heart," she said.

So I took my favorite, Mary Ann (though I thought it was a dreadful shame
To give such a perfectly lovely child such a perfectly horrid name),
And recalled her my dear little "Fifty-four"
a hundred times, till I knew
The answer of six times nine as well as the answer of two times two.

Next day Elizabeth Wigglesworth, who always acts so proud,
Said "Six times nine is fifty-two," and I
Was nearly laughed aloud!
But I wished I hadn't when teacher said,
"Now, Dorothy, tell if you can,"
For I thought of my doll, and—sakes alive!
—I answered "Mary Ann."
—Anna M. Pratt.

Directly From Coal.

A useful discovery is announced in L'Echo Forciestr by M. Riche, an engineer. It is known that motive power, instead of being produced by steam, can be had directly from the coal transformed into gas. The defects of this gas, however, are its small per cent, of richness, its cost, and the scarceness of the coal, from which, in certain localities it can be extracted, though even with these disadvantages the motive power thus produced is cheaper than that obtained by ordinary means. Means have now been found by M. Riche for transforming the whole of wood into gas, the latter having, he says, a power four times greater than that yielded by bituminous coal, which can be applied to the production of numerous ceramic products, such as glass manufacture, Bessemer hearths, and like industries. Owing also to its richness in carbonic oxide it can be made use of in the manufacture of various chemicals, such as oxalic acid, and this at a much lower cost than at present.

Sings.

The good man now doth homeward come,
His walk and talk are jerky;
And then the good wife knows that he's
Been "shaking for a turkey."
—Indianapolis Journal.

Young men or old should not fail to read Thos. Slater's offer on page 8.

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

The Weekly Blade

One Year

FOR ONLY..... 5c

When ordered in connection with our

New General Atlas of the World

The size of the page is 12x14½ inches; 160 pages; 157 colored map-pages of every country on the face of the globe. Every map in colors, accompanied and explained by a marginal index showing subdivisions, counties, etc., etc., alphabetically arranged, with total population also classified according to sex, nativity, race and color, and, further, showing the population of cities, towns and villages, all the latter being arranged according to size.

THIS ENTIRELY NEW ATLAS OF THE WORLD is offered exclusively by THE TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE. It is superbly bound in best grade of silk-finished cloth.

PUBLISHERS' PRICE, $3.50.

Our price for Atlas alone..... $1.95

Or, the Atlas and The Weekly Blade one year for only..... $2.00

The Atlas is sent CHARGES POSTPAID.

This Great Educational Work makes a beautiful and valuable CHRISTMAS GIFT.

THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

Our Christmas Offer.

SHEET MUSIC

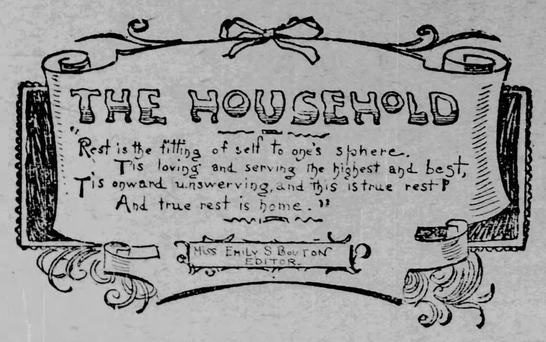
We have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses on this continent to furnish our readers with SIX PIECES, full size, complete and unabridged SHEET MUSIC for FIFTEEN CENTS.

This great sheet music offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value for the least money ever before offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high price copyright pieces or most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type, and is in every way first class and worthy of a place in your home.

15 cts | 6-SIX-6 PIECES | 15 cts

DON'T FORGET That the price you have to pay is only Fifteen Cents. That for this you get Six Pieces, not one. That the quality of this Sheet Music is the best. That this music is sent to any address, postpaid. That all the little details are up to the standard. That the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments. That the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody. That this is sheet music equal to any published. ALSO, DON'T FORGET to make your selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this great SHEET MUSIC OFFER.

No.	Voice and Piano or Organ.	
1.	Annie's Love. Duet	Jos. Winters
4.	Father's Lullaby. Slumber song	G. Mosher
6.	Tinkling of the Bells and Mother	A. M. Adams
8.	Flossie. Waltz song	A. M. Cohen
10.	The Sweetest Song	L. Denza
12.	The Bridge. Words by Longfellow	A. Sullivan
14.	An Outing. Character song	J. J. Fritz
16.	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	N. Kneass
18.	"I Dunno Where I Are." Comic	F. Eplet
20.	Keep the Home Fires Burning	Ambrose
22.	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
24.	Lurline, Do You Think of Me Now?	
26.	Ave Maria (Cavalleria Rusticana)	Mascagni
28.	Juanita. Ballad	T. G. May
30.	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	F. H. Cowen
32.	Swing Song. Pretty	H. M. Brooks
34.	By Normandie's Blue Hills	H. Trotero
36.	For the Colors	H. L. White
38.	Love to Lead	Adams
40.	Love Ever Faithful	
42.	Come When Sorr Twilight Falls	A. Sullivan
44.	Beautiful Faces Are Those Kind	
46.	Sing Me a Song of the Sea	W. Nutting
48.	Little Boy Blue	H. H. Kunkel
50.	Sweet Evie. Sacred	C. Gounod
52.	Love's Dream	P. A. Schnecker
54.	Musical Dialogue. Duet	H. M. Richmond
56.	Precious Treasure	L. Weber
58.	Where the Roses Are Blooming Again	
60.	Old Glory. National air	J. H. Woods
62.	Your Mother's Love for You	K. Kappi
64.	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	
66.	For You We Are Praying at Home	H



CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE.

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright!
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and grey,
Christmas where peace like a dove in his flight
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight!
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
No place too great and no cottage too small.
The angels who welcome Him sing from the height,
In the "City of David" a king in his might;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

So the stars of the midnight which compass us round
Shall see a strange glory and hear a sweet sound,
And cry: "Look! the earth is aflame with delight,
O sons of the morning, rejoice at the sight!"
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

—Phillips Brooks.

MANUAL TRAINING.

VISIT TO THE COOKING DEPARTMENT OF THE TOLEDO SCHOOL.

A Member of The Blade Family Tells All About What She Saw There.

Years ago, when a boy arrived at a proper age, which usually depended upon his liking for school work, or the financial ability of his parents to allow him to continue it, he was bound out to some mechanic, or tradesman to learn a trade. Occasionally there was one who would learn nothing but books, and therefore, being accounted as fit for nothing but a "parson, or schoolmaster," was allowed to continue his studies, but with other boys it was often the case that they were apprenticed to any one who happened to need a "boy," on the principle that one trade was as good as another, as a means of earning a livelihood, no attention being given to the wishes of the boy, or to his fitness for the work.

During the first years of his apprenticeship the knowledge he acquired was confined chiefly to learning how to run a grandstone, if he aspired to become a carpenter, and to waiting upon the "boss" and the men, who were skilled workmen. This was true in any business.

So, too, with the girls. Millinery and dressmaking were about the only trades open to them, and the first months of the "prentice girl's" instruction were devoted to carrying bundles, doing errands, and in some instances, to assisting in the housework of the mistress.

In some places these methods still obtain, but in cities where manual training schools have been established, the pupils in the various departments of carpentry, wood-turning, wood-carving, blacksmithing, cooking, plain sewing dressmaking, etc., are at once given a practical knowledge of their work, and are better informed after one year's experience than they would have been with five years of the old methods.

A representative of The Blade recently visited the Toledo Manual Training School, which is conceded by all to be one of the most fully equipped and best conducted schools in the country. By the courtesy of the principal, Mr. William Skinner, an opportunity was

THE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

given to visit the various class rooms filled with boys and girls busy, under the direction of special teachers, in learning the work that was to fit them for taking their places as the men and women who are to make the future history of our country. With this training it will not be a history of poverty, discontent, strikes and anarchism, but of an independent, self-respecting and self supporting people.

While pages could be filled with an account of the many things of interest that are seen in every department during such a visit, especial interest was centered in the cooking school, from the fact that so many inquiries in reference to it have been received by The Blade Household.

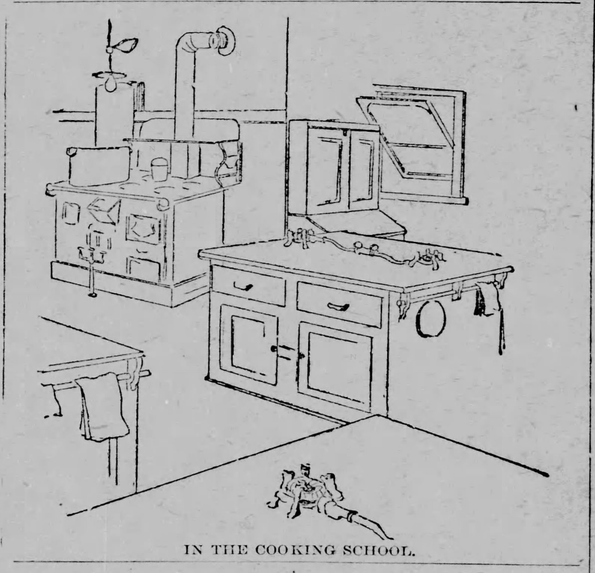
Imagine a large room, well lighted and ventilated, containing five zinc-covered working tables, a sink with hot and cold water, a large range and a cupboard with glass doors containing the fine china and glass used at the dinners and luncheons, which are inclucd in the course of study. Ranged around the room are lockers where the aprons, sleeves and caps worn by the girls while at work are kept, and cases containing samples of the fruit and jellies prepared by the classes. On the walls hang charts exhibiting the different elements of food and the proportion of each necessary for the perfect development of the human body. There are also illustrations of the different cuts of meat, etc.

Each work table is supplied with two small gas stoves on which most of the cooking is done, the large range being used for the baking. A drawer for each of the four girls who can work at a table contains knife, fork, spoon and measuring cup and whatever else is necessary for their work. These, as well as the towels she used, must be left by the girls in perfect order for the use of the next class.

The pupils are required to provide themselves with a large apron and sleeve protectors of gingham, a white muslin cap, a blank book, pad and pencil. The aims of the scholars are: Neatness, accuracy, order and economy, and these are strictly kept in view at all times. On the first page of the blank books they are written, and also this definition of a good cook, by Ruskin:

"To be a good cook means the knowledge of all fruits, herbs, balms, and spices, and of all that is healing and sweet in fields and groves, savory in meats. It means carefulness, inventiveness, watchfulness, willingness and readiness of appliance. It means the economy of your great grandmothers and the science of modern chemists; it means much tasting and no wasting; it means English thoroughness, French art, and Arabian hospitality; it means, in fine, that you are to be perfectly and always ladies (loaf givers), and you are so see that everybody has something nice to eat."

Lavatories and cloak rooms are provided conveniently near this class-room where the girls are expected to remove their hats and wraps, don the aprons sleeves and caps, wash their hands and otherwise prepare themselves for the lesson. After having explained to them the proper place and use of the utensils, the pupils take their seats at desks ranged along one end of the room; the teacher reads to them the recipe for the work to be done at that lesson, with full directions, prices of materials used etc. After writing this on the pad with which they are provided, they proceed to carry out the instructions given them, the teacher keeping a general oversight of the work and assisting with a word of explanation as needed. These recipes are afterwards copied into the blank books spoken of, and these are submitted to the criticism of the teacher, once a month. The correctness and neatness of these books count in the general average of the pupil. The lessons last for two minutes, including the time required for washing the dishes and preparing everything for the next class. All of the work is accomplished without



IN THE COOKING SCHOOL.

confusion and with the minimum amount of noise possible.

The lessons are varied by lectures explaining not only how to use certain combinations, but why they are used. The pupils are taught the value of different substances both as flesh-forming, or heat-producing, and the amount of each necessary for health; they are taught the food value of different kinds of meats and vegetables; they learn why all people cannot thrive on the same diet and how to regulate the diet to suit individual needs. The changes produced by boiling, baking and frying are explained to them, as are the adulterations most commonly passed off on unsuspecting and uninformed people, and the means of detecting them.

The germ theories, stimulants and their effects, the chemical and physical changes produced in the human body by food, how to can meats, vegetables and fruits removal of wastes, plumbing and care of fixtures, disinfectants and antiseptics, when and how to use them; how to prepare and serve a good meal and how to make soap, are also among the many things that are fully explained in this department. The classes are taken to a market where they obtain a practical knowledge of the manner of cutting meat and thus learn from what part of the animal each portion comes.

Before the prescribed course of lessons is finished each pupil is required to market for and prepare menus for a family of six persons, for one week and to keep the expense of these within a limit of $10. A breakfast, lunch on and course dinner are also prepared and served, each girl taking a part in the preparation. These are made gala occasions, a certain number of invited guests being present to pass judgment on the viands.

The day classes are composed of pupils in the public schools, and the evening classes made up of young women who are occupied during the day. The same carfeul instruction is given to all; to the lady who wishes to learn to make some fancy dishes, or to her cook who desires to perfect herself in her daily work, in the management and care of the house, as well as the actual cooking.

All classes are under the supervision of Miss Matilda F. Campbell, herself a graduate of the Toledo schools. To the thorough training she received there, is added the benefits received from a course of study at the Pratt Institute, and two years of practical teaching. Her methods of imparting instruction to her classes are unsurpassed. Combining with these much personal dignity and a clear and intelligent explanation of the work, free from all technical terms that might confuse a beginner, Miss Campbell at once inspires her pupils with love and respect for her, and full confidence in her ability, qualifications which materially assist in making her the successful teacher she is.

While this is, necessarily, a very brief and imperfect account of the work of this department of the Manual Training school, it will give an idea of the object and methods used.

The classes in dressmaking, plain sewing, stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping and drawing, as well as those for fine trades, are conducted by teachers who are in every way competent instructors and are all open for all young men and women who choose to avail themselves of the benefit to be received from them. The charge for tuition is merely nominal being only sufficient to cover the expense of material used in the classes.

If we may accept the old saying that "Knowledge is Power," there is certainly no reason why this generation should not be a powerful one for good, if it will but accept the advantages thus offered to it for obtaining knowledge.

S. F. W.

THE COOK'S DEPARTMENT.

Her Pies.

'Way back in the sweet, sweet long ago,
When the world seemed just newly made,
And the hours swept in a gold batteau
O'er pleasure a bright cascade,
'Twas then in childhood's realm I met
Dear Maude of the dewy eyes,
And stood entranced as the deft brunette
Did fashion the wee dirt pies.

We're married now, and the self-same hands
That molded the pies of clay
Have sometimes structured other brands
Of pies in the modern way;
And, having sampled these pastry plants,
My oath I can solemnly take
That between the two I'd risk my chance
With the kind that she used to make.

Again the Christmas feast—to very many of us a feast of things to eat only. But, however, little we may think of the higher, more sublime feast, there are very few persons who do not, at that time, have the desire to share of their abundance with those who have less than they, and from the homes of the wealthy, or; well-to-do families, baskets filled with dinners are sent out among those to whom they are most welcome.

And this is the true spirit of Christmas—to give to the needy, and to give in love. "If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little;" and if thou have but a loaf of bread, or a handful of walnuts which you gathered some beautiful October day, to give—do not withhold the gift because it is small, if there is a man, woman or child to whom such a gift, with the loving wish that you can send with it, will be made happier.

In thinking of Christmas menus, the cook remembered this one, from the American Kitchen Magazine:

An eight-year-old lad was asked to write out what he considered a good dinner bill of fare, and here it is:

FURST CORSE.
Mince Pie.
SEKOND CORSE.
Pumpkin Pie and Terkey.
THIRD CORSE.
Lemon Pie, Terkey, Cranberries.
FOURTH CORSE.
Custard Pie, Apple Pie, Mince Pie,
Chocolate Cake, Ice Cream and
Plum Pudding.
Desert.
Nuts.

As the dinner table is the principle attraction on Christmas day, some attention should be given to its decoration as well as to the food that is placed upon it. The best table cloth and napkins are none too good for use at this time, and, if your cloth is not as thick and heavy as you would like it to be, it will make it appear much nicer if you have a silence cloth of heavy canton flannel, or, better still, a quilted pad cover for the table, under the cloth. Have the silver and glass as bright as they can be made, and whatever of floral decorations you have should be placed beyond the space needed for

plates, etc., I saw a table once that had a wreath of ground-pine around the edge of the cloth, and while it looked very beautiful, the effect was spoiled when the dining commenced, as the pines of the evergreen broke off into the laps of the guests with every touch of the arms, and it was an anxious endeavor on the part of many of the guests to prevent their becoming mixed with the food.

Any tall pieces are also out of place on the dinner table, as they interfere with the free exchange of glances which may be sent across the table, and we all know how unpleasant it is to try to speak to any one when we are obliged to talk around a tall vase of flowers. A low basket filled with vines, which may be allowed to trail gracefully over the white cloth, and with flowers is better. If you wish to use evergreen on the table, a wreath of ground pine, or holly, just outside of this centerpiece will, with a little flower at each plate, be plenty, as too much of anything is to be avoided. Then when the family and the guests are seated, the eye will be pleased as well as the stomach, and the dinner, whether it be expensive, or otherwise, will be enjoyed to the utmost, specially if the hearts of all are filled with the Christmas joy and feeling of good will to all.

Baked Indian Pudding.

Into a quart of boiling milk stir gradually 3 gill (1½ cupfuls) of sifted yellow corn meal; ½ pt. of molasses and a tablespoonful of salt. Scald thoroughly and add 2 tablespoonfuls of ginger. Into this pour 1 qt. of cold milk and add ½ lb of finely chopped beef suet. Pour into a buttered pudding dish and bake in a slow oven five hours. Raisins may be added if desired, and the quantity of sweetening varied to suit individual tastes. To be eaten warm, or cold with sweetened cream.

The boy who does the tasting for the Blade Cook, says that he thinks that "baked Indians" are to be envied, if they always have such puddings as this.

Adele wishes to know how to use gelatine. It must be soaked in cold water for some time before using, and boiling water poured over it when used, unless otherwise directed by the recipe. Full directions accompany every package.

OUR COSY CORNER.

THE AUTUMN BRINGS THOUGHTS OF THE COMING WINTER.

Friends Gather Together to Talk Matters Over—Some Pertinent Questions to Answer.

God bless you, merry gentlemen!
May nothing you dismay—
Not even your finances when
You find 'tis Christmas Day.

Among the reforms that would be made if women could make the laws, would be a change in the time for paying taxes. It is very discouraging to the wife and mother when she needs a little extra money for the holiday trade, to have always to be told that the taxes must be paid, and she knows that after that comes leanness of pocketbook (with many husbands), and that she must deny herself the pleasure of purchasing the lovely gifts for the children and friends, or even the necktie or box of cigars she had intended to give him.

The future has a golden tinge,
The past, too, may seem pleasant,
But just about the Christmastide
There's nothing like the present.

But if the "present" cannot be costly, it does not follow that it will not be welcome, and to the ingenious woman there is no end to the possibilities of odds and ends, and bits of silk, lace and muslin that in unskilled hands would mean nothing but paper rags at one-fourth of a cent a pound. A little taste, and a very little material will go a long way in providing gifts, unless your friends care more for the gift than for the giver.

The Christmas decorations of evergreen add so much to the pleasures of the day that it is well worth the time it requires to arrange them. A wreath of holly in the window, a spray of smilax around the chandeliers or over the picture-frames will give a holiday air to the plainest room, and we unconsciously brighten up with the surroundings until we enter into the joy of the Christmas tide.

"A Working Woman" came in to the Cosy Corner this morning to tell us how she feels on the subject of Christmas decorations:

Christmas decorating—or was it the love that inspired the decorators?—once saved me from utter despair, and this is the way it happened. I am one of those women who are obliged to work in a store for six days in the week, in order to keep a home for her fatherless children. I do not complain of that, for mine are dear, good children, and I am only too glad that I can work for them, but on this especial occasion, I nearly gave up all hope and lost my courage.

It was the day before Christmas, and we were unusually busy in the store, even for the season, as the holiday trade had been greater than we had ever before known it to be; I was not well, and was as tired and discouraged that even the sight of the children's happy faces, as they passed from one beautiful thing to another, failed to cheer me, and a person is pretty low down in the slough of despondency when they can't enjoy the children.

I could only think of the expenses that I had to meet and the very small sum of money I had with which to meet them, and of my dear children at home, to whom I would fain have given of all the beautiful things I saw more fortunate mothers buying but alas, I could not give them as much as the least of the expensive toys I sold, cost.

We were so busy that we did not leave the store for supper, but were served with a cup of tea and a sandwich in the basement, and upon this poor foundation for strength we were obliged to work till 11 o'clock.

A light fall of snow had made the walking very difficult and unpleasant, and as my shoes and wraps were badly worn I was very uncomfortable coming, as I did, from the heated atmosphere of the store, and by the time I reached my home I was ready to drop down with cold and fatigue and discouragement. The house was all dark, and supposing of course that the children were in bed and asleep I took out my key to let myself in, but before I could insert it in the lock the door was opened and I entered what seemed fairy land to me.

The children had gone that morning to a place some little distance out of the city where there were a number of pine trees, and readily obtained permission of the owner to cut small branches from them. With these they had trimmed our little sitting room till it "looked like a church," as the youngest boy said. Bunches of the pine, with red berries from the wild rose bushes, were placed over the doors and windows and over the pictures we owned, while tiny sprays of green were fastened to the muslin curtains. A bright fire burned in the grate, and the table, set with every little dainty bit of china we possessed, was drawn up near it.

The dinner I had ordered for the children at noon was soon placed on the table, and I, with my worn, wet shoes and stockings replaced by dry hose and a pair of bed-room slippers that my eldest daughter had knit for my Christmas present, was seated at the head of this, to me, blessed feast, though I was not allowed to do anything but to enjoy myself.

Then it was explained to me that these children had dined on dry bread, and made a supper of the same, in order that they could all have a good, hot meal with mother when she came home. "We knew you would be awfully tired, and we thought first we would just have your supper ready for you, and then we did so want to eat with you, that we decided on this." "And besides," added another, "we were so busy with the decorating that we couldn't have eaten our dinner any sooner."

It was long after midnight when we parted for the night with mutual wishes for a Merry Christmas, and it was nearly morning before I could sleep for the grateful thoughts that filled my heart, and I am sure that if I were to travel the world over, I should never see anything that would seem so beautiful to me as did those evergreen decorations in my home that Christmas eve.

This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas
have pealed
That mankind are the children of God.

One of our friends tells us of a new article of apparel that should be in the possessions of every woman. She calls it the "Smile veil."

"I am glad to have been able to step over the "pebbles" of which our editor speaks in her "Pebble Picking," but, ah, sisters, 'tis so difficult to climb and clamber over these rough cobble stones, which are thrown in our way, without stumbling and receiving such hurtful bruises. Let me tell you what my cure has been for these "heart hurts." It is a new style veil of my own invention, being dotted all over with smiles, so I've named it the "smile veil." I have had cause to keep it closely drawn the last few months and, Cozy Corner friends, could you know the hurts this "smile veil" covers, you would say truly one can smile when the heart is breaking.

In the midst of our joy and pleasure we should never lost sight of the fact that:

In the outer ways there are hearts that bleed
And hands that labor long.
And should never fail to
"Season the jest with a kindly deed,
And let love deepen the song."

for the sake of Him who was filled with divine compassion for all who were in need, and in whose honor we keep this "joyful Christmas tide."

Alice gives some suggestions in regard to the favorite of all trees, that blossom at this time of the year:

If any of your readers wishes to fit out a glittering Christmas tree they will find these suggestions useful. Be sure your tree is firmly set before proceeding to decorate it. It is well to prepare the decorations beforehand; first, take cotton wool and lay it on the branches in long, narrow strips, softly patted down and pressed into place so it will not fly into the lighted candles. If well done it successfully imitates snow. Now hang a lot of gilded walnuts here, there and every where, with long strings of popcorn and cranberries festooned from branch to branch. You can make the tree blossom at will with the prettiest of colors if you are adept in making paper flowers. Your tree will now look very gay, but you will need more glitter and this can be had by forming long chains out of gold and silver paper. A few skeins of each kind will suffice, the chains are done by cutting links, a mere touch of paste will hold the ends together; when completed drape from branch to branch.

Cut your candy bags of net in stocking, and star shapes, overhand together with bright colored zephyrs. Tie on what gifts you think proper, remembering to put heavy packages at the bottom. Have your tree well lighted with wax candles, and if you can have a Santa Claus to come in and dispense the presents your Chirstmas tree will prove a success.

Miss Irene asks how to arrange a table for a Christmas dinner and for a menu for a company of ten persons. Irene will find some suggestions in the cook's department in regard to the arrangement of the table, but as she said nothing in her letter of the circumstances of the one who is to give the dinner it is difficult to send her any especial directions. And so for the menu; does she wish to have a "course" diner, and if so how many courses does she wish? Shall the dinner be a very formal affair, or a comfortable family reunion dinner? All of these things have to be considered in arranging such things.

A good, general rule for serving a Christmas dinner is to make your table as pretty as you can with the silver, glass and china you may possess, brighten it with flowers and serve your dinner properly. Let the hot thing be served hot, not luke warm, and the cold things cold. This will apply to any menus.

Estelle B. asks how and with whom the Christmas festivities now in vogue were originated.

Our Christmas seems to be a kind of a polyglot affair according to old traditions. Our Christmas carols seem to have come from the Holy Land; our Christmas trees from the East by way of Germany; our Santa Claus from Holland; our stocking hanging in the chimney from France and Belgium; our Christmas cards and greetings; our Yule-logs, our church service, our plum pudding and mince pies from England. But the pumpkin pie is something we can claim as our own, if nothing else.

Blue Eyes wishes to know if it is really true that if a girl is kissed under the mistletoe at Christmas she will be married before the year is out.

If it is genuine mistletoe, and both kisser and kissed are willing, and there is no reason why they should not be married, the editor thinks it very likely that this "sign" will not fail. And if all other conditions are true, it will not so much matter if the "mistletoe" is holly, or, in extreme cases, if there is nothing of the kind, the kissing will be just as good.

There is one comfort for any who may miss this osculatory performance, in that the old idea that "if a girl was not kissed on Christmas day she could not hope to be married in the following year" is exploded, and no one need be discouraged on that account.

The fat girl in the dime museum
Hung up her stocking. And what mirth
Did fill old Santa when he saw it;
"Great Scott!" he cried, "She wants the earth."

Of toil unsevered from tranquility!
Of labor, that in lasting fruit outgrows
Far nobler schemes, accomplish'd in repose—
Too great for haste, too high for rivalry!

Yes, while on earth a thousand discords ring,
Man's senseless uproar mingling with his toil,
Still do thy quiet ministers move on.

Their glorious tasks in silence perfecting!
Still working, blaming still our vain turmoil,
Laborers that shall not fail when man is gone.

—Matthew Arnold.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB

Receive Several New Ideas Very Plainly and Concisely Expressed.

There were no applicants for admission this morning, but Mrs. A. A. K., Marie and L. D. dropped in and kept the editor from utter loneliness.

Marie, the club will be glad to see you whenever you can run in.

Mrs. A. A. K., I am glad the "points" reached you safely, and thank you for your appreciative words.

Mrs. L. D.: Your contribution was very acceptable.

Rose Madder came to the front again this week, and gave the club directions for making a

Book for Clippings.

Some people are fond of saving clippings from newspapers, but find it a trouble to paste them in a scrap-book, and here is a convenient way to dispose of them.

Take six or eight large oblong en-

velopes made of heavy paper. On the flap of one write "Art;" on another "Music;" on a third "Poetry;" on others "History," "Books," "Miscellaneous," etc.

Cut two pieces of thick cardboard the same size as the envelopes and cover with a pretty shade of linen; on one of them paint or embroider the word "Clippings" with an ornamental spray.

Punch holes through the covers and

envelopes at the lower side near the ends, and tie all together with narrow ribbon.

As the envelopes are filled, the ribbons may be let out so the book will not become bulky.

Marie had a new way of making that old but ever useful standby the sofa pillow. She named it

Pucker Work.

This may be used for sofa pillows or quilts, and the material may be either silk or worsted.

For a sofa pillow, cut 100 pieces of cotton cloth; each two inches square; these form the foundation, while the "puckered part" is formed from pieces of silk or worsted each three inches square.

Lay the larger piece upon the smaller, and run the edges together, laying the extra fullness in a box pleat on each side of the square.

Join these squares together in seams, and finish the edge with a double ruffle.

The editor has a friend who made a cushion of "biscuits" made in a similar manner, the fullness being "held in" at the edges of the square, and the back filled with cotton-batting before the last side was closed up.

M. E. R. gave us a pretty design for fashioning

A Winter Placque.

Cut from heavy card-board a palette-shaped piece about ten inches across. Cover it with cotton-batting, pasting it to the card-board at the back.

Cut from white paper a picture of a

ship and paste on the cotton as shown in the illustration.

Dissolve 5 cents worth of alum in one-half pint of hot water, and when it is cooled a little crystallize in it wheat-leads, or any kind of grasses you prefer.

The tree and grass at the left and shrub at the right of the illustration are little sprigs and grass crystalized.

As the alum begins to cease crystallizing, take a case-knife and spread it on the cotton, over what represents the ground in the picture, and over the base of the ship.

Sew the sprigs and grasses in position with white thread; tie a bunch of the grass in the hole of the palette and sprinkle the whole picture with silver dust.

The weight of the alum will string the cotton down around the lower edge when it is suspended, resembling hoar-frost or icicles.

A bow of ribbon is fastened at the upper side of the placque, and a loop of the same, or a brass ring at the back serves to hang it in position on the wall.

The rain whose boon the softening fallows cheers
May wash the rock unhanked a thousand years.

—T. B.

THE SEA.

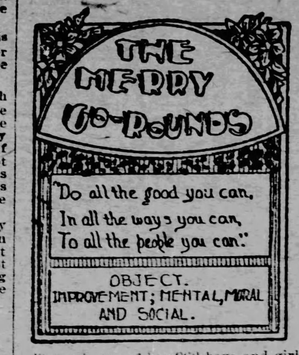
I am the sea. I hold the land
As one holds an apple in his hand.
Hold it fast with sleepless eyes,
Watching the contents sink and rise.
Out of my bosom the mountains grow,
Back to my depths they crumble slow;
The earth is a helpless child to me—
I am the sea.

I am the sea. When I draw back
Blossoms and verdure follow my track.
And the land I leave grows proud and fair,
For the wonderful race of man is there;
And the winds of heaven wail and cry
Living and dying in folly and pain,
While the laws of the universe thunder in vain.
What is the folly of man to me?
I am the sea.

I am the sea. The earth I way;
Granite to me is potter's clay.
Under the touch of my careless waves
It rises in turrets and sinks in caves;
The iron cliffs that edge the land
I grind to pebbles and swift to sand.
And beach grass bloweth and children play
In what were the rocks of yesterday;
It is but a moment of sport to me—
I am the sea.

I am the sea. In my bosom deep
Wealth and wonder and beauty sleep;
Wealth and wonder and beauty rise
In changing splendor of sunset skies.
And comfort the earth with rains and snows
Till waves the harvest and laughs the rose.
Flower and forest and child of breath
With me have life, with me, death.
What if the ships go down in me?
I am the sea.

—Charlotte Perkins Stetson.



To each one of her 962 boys and girls who help to make the Merry Go Round column of The Blade the most interesting to the young people, of all of the paper, Miss Prudence gives a Christmas greeting and congratulates them, every one, on the improvement they have shown since last year at this time.

We certainly have very much for which to be thankful, in that none of our large circle has been removed from us by death. At least, none have been, to the knowledge of the Chaperone. Several have changed their addresses from one locality to another, two, at least, have endured much of physical suffering, and to these, the letters of their Merry Go Round friends have been a comfort, and a help in bearing the trials of patience that have come to them.

Two marriages have been recorded as the result of the Merry Go Round correspondence, and for these, the good wishes of all will be given. We have learned many things about the country in which we live, the products of the soil, the natural scenery and resources of different states, and much about the character, disposition, employments and ambitions of the members of the M. G. R.

We have learned by constant practice how to write entertaining letters, how to say much in a few words, and—many of us have learned how to spell correctly.

I know you think—some of you—that Miss Prudence has a very great and unnecessary anxiety on the subject of spelling, and if you were not altogether too well-bred to use slang—you might say she was a "crank" on that subject. But when you are half as old as she is, and learn how important this is, you will appreciate her anxiety that every one of her large family of Merry Go Rounds should spell correctly.

And now Miss Prudence suggests that on Christmas morning of 1896 every member of this band of comrades shall send a mental good wish to every other member, and among our New Year resolutions, we will resolve to make even a better year for ourselves next year by living more truly and faithfully our accepted motto.

Wilber, a new member from Pennsylvania, has at last gained courage to ask for admittance to the order and promises to come again soon with a more interesting letter.

Roxanna Pearl Blossom, from the same state, makes her first appearance also, and asks for a seat near Carolyn, as they are members of the same society—the "I. A. H."

Jew thanks Invalid, Lera, Lenore and Calhoun for their kindness and welcome, and asks this question of the Merry Go Rounds: Is it right for a Christian to even desire to attend a social dance or party? Jew gives as his idea of the necessary qualifications for a successful and satisfactory business career: Good common sense; a thorough education; honesty and truthfulness; Christianity and sobriety.

Missourian says honesty, sobriety, morality and industry, while from Oklahoma; Carr states as his belief that education, good moral habits, pluck and a lucrative position are necessary.

Bonnie prefers intelligence, perseverance, Christianity and pleasing manners.

The presidents from Indiana and Michigan send very nice reports from their respective states, well written, concise and grammatically correct, the editor counts it a comfort to receive them and thanks the young ladies. Misses Gibson and Peterson, for the care they have always taken in preparing their report. She also thanks the members of these and other states who have been so faithful in sending answers to the questions given. To her other kindnesses, the Michigan president adds pleasant words and kind wishes for the Chaperone's especial benefit, and which are truly appreciated.

From Indiana: Chrysanthemum thus answers the November question: "Necessary for a successful and satisfactory business career—honesty, industry, frugality and benevolence.

Hoosier School-Girl: Industry, Perseverance, accuracy and punctuality.

Plow Boy: Good character, commercial education, lots of energy and pleasing manners.

Pajorito: Honesty, integrity, punctuality and perserverance.

Susie: Application, tact, honesty and economy.

Isabel: Knowledge, wisdom, honesty, capital and a Republican administration.

Reports on the October question, from Missouri and West Virginia, have been received too late to be used.

From Michigan—Judas: For a successful and satisfactory business career one should possess a fair education, sound judgment, perserverance and be a good judge of human nature.

Marino: In my opinion the four requisites are: Intelligence, honesty, energy and perserverance.

Prohibitionist: Intelligence, ability, tenacity of purpose and integrity.

Carriel: One should possess first of all an honest, upright character; be endowed with common sense and shrewd judgment, and last but not least have a thorough knowledge of all commercial branches.

Lectern, Kan., closes the report for this week with his ideas on the subject: Honesty, politeness, uprightness and looking carefully after your own affairs.

He Knew What He Was About.

Among the stories told to the deserved credit of such lawyers as have no scruples against distorting and concealing the truth in order to shield persons whom they know or have every reason to believe to be guilty, the following is entitled to a good place.

An attorney had occasion to defend a man who was justly accused of counterfeiting paper money, and he manipulated the case with such skill that he secured the acquittal of the prisoner. When the lawyer and his client were alone together again the counterfeit overwhelmed the lawyer with thanks.

"And now," said he, putting his hand in his pocket.

"And now" the lawyer took up the sentence, "I will have my fee, and I will take it in hard currency not in bills, if you please."—Youth's Companion.

For The Blade.

TO THE KING'S DAUGHTERS.

You are buying the Christmas presents,
For your dear ones large and small;
You are trying your best, to remember
The gifts that will please them all.
You are smiling in anticipation
Of the pleasure they will bring;
What gift have you planned for your Father?
Dear daughters of the King.

Can you offer Him on His birthday,
The tale of a well-spent year?
Have you doubled or trebled the talent,
He left to your keeping here?
Can you bring Him the "Medal of Honor"
Gallantly won "In His Name"?
Or the "Royal Diadem" of thanks,
From those you've helped reclaim?

Remember your loving acceptance
Of the gifts your children bring,
And with trusting and reverent devotion,
Offer your best to the King.
Remember His wonderful love for you,
On this day that is set apart
To honor His birth; and let Him have
Praise from each grateful heart.

—L. A. F.

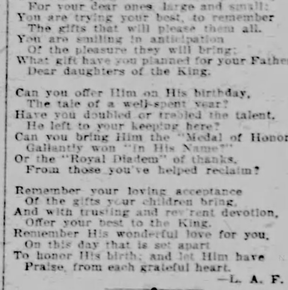
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED.

All About How It Was Done in One Happy Home.

"On the morning of Christmas day there was, as you well remember, a lovely service at church. The girls having so little to prepare at home gave even more attention than usual to the transformation, and masses of green boughs, of oak leaves, brown, but so lovely, of red berries, and before the pulpit a great bank of green ferns made the building seem like another place. Many of us have asked about the keeping of fresh ferns all winter. My daughter, Elinor, will tell you about it when her turn comes for the plant talk she means to give.

"The older children had not, perhaps, minded the loss of the usual tree and its attendant festivities so much, but it was a little hard on the younger ones, and we had done our best in that direction. Early in the morning we heard their shouts as joyful as usual over the simple contents of their stockings, for in each was a pair of home knit mittens, a pair of blunt end scissors, a roll of 'cut-out pictures,' and a set of six tops, skillfully contrived by their father from old spools. Each was brightly painted and inscribed with the name of some member of the family. Over these was endless fun for 'father,' as he said, 'true to his calling,' wouldn't spin at all, while 'mother' whirled like a veritable dervish.

"Our next excitement was dinner, at



5 o'clock, and such a pretty dinner! On the snowy cloth were strewn black alder twigs, which with their shining berries at least served as a pretty substitute for holly. In the center in a moss-bound pot, stood a lovely little spruce tree, lighted with real candles, and hung with gold and silver paper packages of nuts and candy; the nuts from our own trees, the candy home made.

"After dinner was over, all the family gathered in the parlor to await events, with the exception of myself, my sister Mary and little Charles. In the quiet of the garret Mary and I then proceeded to array Charles in a Santa Claus suit prepared in secret for the purpose out of a yard or so of bright cambric found in the lining box. First a tiny pair of yellow trunks, then a full blouse of red, well stuffed in front with a down pillow; next a full red cap, to which was sewn long cotton locks. On to his back we strapped a bag filled with the gifts and he was ready.

"When he entered the parlor he bowed so low that we feared his pack would fall over his head, and said his little piece:

'I'm the spirit of Christmas day,
Ever I give—I give away;
But lest my gifts may value lack,
With laughter and fun I've filled my pack.'

"Then he handed out his first package mysteriously done up, as were all, in folds of newspaper. It was for Cousin Frances, and you all know what she is a remarkable housekeeper, so you will not question the propriety of giving her a collapse. Her feather duster which stretched out would reach almost anywhere. I found it at a ten-cent store in B——, as I did nearly all the gifts, and this rhyme was on the slip of paper enclosed with it:

'O, Frances dear, we hope you'll be,
More careful really. Don't you see,
Up near the ridgepole there's some dust,
It's sad to say it, but we really must.'

"For one of the friends who has a great liking for fruit, was a fine bag of those painted earthern apples, oranges, tomatoes and others, which are made for children's banks.

'Now, Mary, do not fail to chew them well, or 'twill be bad for you.'

caused a burst of laughter.

"For our college Tom, who is forever bringing home new songs of anything but classical type, was a collection of ditties gotten out as an advertisement. These we ornamented with big bows of scarlet cambric, and his rhyme lauded Tom's tastes. For Cousin George who is so devoted to his tiny dog, was an iron ash tray representing a dog's head, and his coupler suggested that merely a tail was needed to represent 'Rags.'

"Then for Cousin Kate, whose baby girl is always just a bouquet of sweetness, was a cake of sand soap and a coarse brush with a rhyme, advising about their use for the 'delicate use of babies.'

"For Lillian, who was bitten by a fracas with a neighbor's pet poodle, was a tiny wool dog bearing a song of apology, saying his

'Liking was shown by his being.'

"But I must not run on forever. When the pack was quite empty, and gifts had been compared, we had our usual games until the time for parting, when we all agreed that we had never passed a more cheerful Christmas."

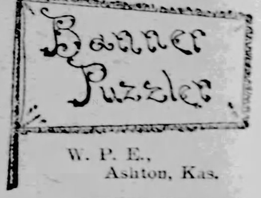
As Mrs. Mason finished, work was folded and put away and a few moments of conversation followed, though this, from the nature of the day's subject was not so important a factor as it was expected it would be later.

"This first meeting is, as you know," said the hostess, "merely a prologue appropriate to the season, but in the days to come it will be strange if we do not find great practical benefit from the subjects which will be treated in our useful, if informal, club. I have heard rumors of some of these and I think they will be no harm done if I drop a hint or two of the pleasures to come.

"We who live far from the centers of art will be glad to hear ideas upon home decoration. Helps about our dearly beloved plants will be delightful. Then we are to get to work and have from authority, will tell us practical ways to amuse and make happy our children. Then there will be practical afternoons upon methods of cooking and of housekeeping. I am sure there is a feast before us in the coming year, and I for one declare the club already 'a success.'" And the meeting dissolved with a unanimous vote to the same effect.

Anna Sawyer in Good Housekeeping.

OUR WONDER COLUMN.



W. P. E.,
Ashton, Kas.

CHRISTMAS PUZZLES.

Who wrote the following:

Peace.—Not in inspiration only, but in benediction, is this word uttered. As the apostle went forth on his errand, as the son left his father's roof, the choicest blessing was, "Peace be with you." As the Savior was born, angels from Heaven, amidst quiring melodies, let fall that supreme benediction, never before vouchsafed to the children of the human family: Peace on earth, and good will toward men.

W. P. E.

2.—A CHRISTMAS TREE.

x
x x x
x x x
x x x x x
x x x x x
x x x x x x x
x
x
x

1.—A consonant.
2.—An exclamation.
3.—Crude mineral substance.
4.—The night before Christmas.
5.—Pleasing sounds, either vocal or instrumental.
6.—Something very light and airy.
7, 8, 9.—The plural of a noun ending in is.
Centrals spell the name of the day we celebrate.

EUDGE AND TODDY.

3.—PRINTER'S PI.

"Myrer cranthins ot tal, dam ot ,al a dugo tigon."

TERENCE O'SHAUGHNESSY.

4.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 27 letters; my 11 1 2 is the orb of day; my 9 10 5 15 7 denotes gladness; my 6 19 13 8 3 16 is an Ohio city; my 11 17 12 6 14 4 is an old time coach; my whole is a most desirable position to be in on Christmas eve.

FRANCES HOWARD.

5.—QUERY.

Who can tell us something about the nature and origin of the lady, and how it derived its name?

THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

6.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:

"Without the door let sorrow lie,

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated and thinking reader.

54TH CONGRESS—2D SESSION.

Congress Yesterday.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator Morgan, of Alabama, held the attention of the Senate and well filled galleries for an hour yesterday by his earnest advocacy of a strong and decisive policy in dealing with the Cuban question. At the close of Mr. Morgan's speech his resolution was adopted, requesting the Secretary of State to furnish the Senate papers and information relative to the Competitor prisoners and other American citizens held in Cuba by the Spanish authorities.

The bill granting Nancy Allahach a pension, was finally passed over the President's veto.

Early in the day Mr. Allen introduced a resolution for the appointment of a committee of nine senators to investigate the extent to which money was used in the recent Presidential election.

House.—The House yesterday entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill to amend the law relating to the transmission of second class mail matter. It denies the right of serial novels to admission to the mails at the newspaper one cent per pound rates; denies to newspapers the sample copy privilege. Mr. Loud of California, the author of the measure, brought it forward quite unexpectedly to a majority of the members of the House. The opposition, led by Mr. Quigg, of New York, inaugurated a filibuster and attempted to prevent its consideration by adjourning, but the House stood by Mr. Loud in two votes, defeating the opposition. The exact status of the bill on question is, To-day the appropriation bills will be brought forward to displace it.

Before this bill was brought up a bill to reorganize the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad company was called up and passed with some amendments.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Yesterday in the House was productive of little progress. The army appropriation bill was under discussion, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate over the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate over the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate on the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate on the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate on the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Senator Morgan, of Alabama, held the attention of the Senate and well filled galleries for an hour yesterday by his earnest advocacy of a strong and decisive policy in dealing with the Cuban question. At the close of Mr. Morgan's speech his resolution was adopted, requesting the Secretary of State to furnish the Senate papers and information relative to the Competitor prisoners and other American citizens held in Cuba by the Spanish authorities.

The bill granting Nancy Allahach a pension, was finally passed over the President's veto.

Early in the day Mr. Allen introduced a resolution for the appointment of a committee of nine senators to investigate the extent to which money was used in the recent Presidential election.

House.—The House yesterday entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill to amend the law relating to the transmission of second class mail matter. It denies the right of serial novels to admission to the mails at the newspaper one cent per pound rates; denies to newspapers the sample copy privilege. Mr. Loud of California, the author of the measure, brought it forward quite unexpectedly to a majority of the members of the House. The opposition, led by Mr. Quigg, of New York, inaugurated a filibuster and attempted to prevent its consideration by adjourning, but the House stood by Mr. Loud in two votes, defeating the opposition. The exact status of the bill on question is, To-day the appropriation bills will be brought forward to displace it.

Before this bill was brought up a bill to reorganize the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad company was called up and passed with some amendments.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Yesterday in the House was productive of little progress. The army appropriation bill was under discussion, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate over the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate on the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The House yesterday passed the third of the regular appropriation bills (that for the support of the army), and entered upon the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial bill, but a deadlock occurred over the proposition for the purchase of the army and navy hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., and the House adjourned.

Senate—The Senate spent the day in an exciting and useless debate over the Dingley bill and accomplished nothing.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Yesterday was the first day of the House, but most of the session was devoted to the passage of the thirty-seven pension and relief bills favorably acted upon by the committee of the whole last Friday. Only five bills were favorably acted upon.

At the evening session of the House fourteen private pension bills were favorably passed upon. One of these grants a pension of $100 per month to the widow of the late Gen. John Gibbon; another $50 per month to the widow of the late Gen. W. A. Nicholas.

There was no session of the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Senate was literally deluged for half an hour yesterday with reports, resolutions and spirited colloquies on the Cuban question. The intense public interest in the subject was shown by the presence of the largest crowds seen since the opening day of the session. All available space in the public galleries was taken and diplomatic gallery contained many distinguished personages.

The main event of the day was the presentation by Mr. Cameron of the report of the committee on foreign relations favorable to his resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba. The report was very brief and perfunctory, the report not being read and an agreement speedily reached by which the resolution and report go over until after the holidays.

House.—The House yesterday practically completed the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, but final action will not be taken until to-day. Almost the whole day was devoted to a debate on the provision of the bill relating to the control of the new Congressional library. Under the provision of the bill an adopted Librarian Spofford will continue in office with an increase of salary from $5,000 to $6,000.

The Senate amendments to the immigration bill were nonconcurred in and a conference agreed to.

The House then [illegible] of the whole and spent the remainder of the day in the consideration of the legislative appropriation bill. The House adjourned at 5:07 p. m.

ACROSS THE SEA.

Thousands of Christmas Presents Sent to the Old Country.

New York, Dec. 16.—The steamships sailing for England and Europe to-day take the last of the Christmas presents of money and valuables to the people of those countries from friends and relatives in the United States. In the marine calendar it is known as Christmas Ship Day, although every mail liner that has sailed for a month or more has carried out hundreds of bags with registered letters and parcels and consignments made through local bankers. Since the middle of November nearly one hundred additional men have been employed in the postoffice, and even those have had to work extra hours in order to keep up with the rush. It is estimated that more money and presents have been sent across the water this season than ever before.

So far as the records of the postoffice go, Italy leads all. Then in order come Germany, Ireland, Sweden, England, Austria and China. It is estimated that nearly 30,000 registered letters and packages start across the Atlantic today, and probably 50,000 gifts that go as merchandise.

NOT ENOUGH MONEY.

Work on the Battleships Now on Dock Must Be Abandoned.

New York, Dec. 16.—Now that there is a possibility of the ships of the navy being called upon at any time for active service there comes a report that for lack of sufficient funds the work of making repairs to the vessels at the navy yard will have to be curtailed. Only the most urgent repairs to some of the ships will be made, while many of the vessels now tied up to the docks at the navy yard will have to be sent to sea in the condition they are in at present.

The appropriation of $2,000,000 that had been made for repairing the vessels until the next appropriation becomes available, which will be in June, 1897, has been reduced to less than $1,000,000, and this will be expended within the next ten days. Nearly 700 men will be discharged before the holidays.

NICHOLSON LAW.

Indiana's Temperance Law Falls Into Disrepute.

Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 16.—The Nicholson temperance law seems to have fallen into disrepute in this county, the home of its author. A year ago, under the local option clause of the Nicholson law, saloons were driven out of Russiaville, Greentown, Galveston and Burlington, small towns in this vicinity. At the present sitting of commissioners' court applications were filed for saloons at Russiaville, Galveston and Greentown. No remonstrances were filed, and the licenses were granted in each case. The only reason assigned for declining to resist the applicants is that the quart shops that sprang up in the places of the closed saloons are a worse pestilence than the retail shops.

A HISTORIC WOMAN.

Mrs. Winans, the First White Child Born in Chicago.

Santa Ana, Cal., Dec. 17.—By request of the president of the Chicago Historical Society, Mrs. Susan Winans, of this city, who is the oldest living native of Chicago, and sole survivor of the Chicago massacre, sent a message of greeting to the society which will be read at the opening of the new Chicago Historical Society building. Mrs. Winans was the first white child born in the city of Chicago. She is almost 80 years of age.

SECRETARY CARLISLE

Tells Something About the Government Finances.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary Carlisle, in his annual report on the finances, shows the revenue of the government from all sources to have been $409,475,408, and the expenditures $384,678,654, which leaves a deficit for the year ending June 30, 1896, of $25,203,245. In addition to the ordinary revenues collected during the year, the cash in the treasury was increased by the following sums: From the sale of $100,000,000 4 per cent 30 years' bonds $111,166,246, and from the issue of 4 per cent bonds in liquidation of interest accrued on refunding certificates con-

SECRETARY CARLISLE.

verted during the year $4,130, making a total of $111,170,376. As compared with the fiscal year 1895, the receipts for 1896 increased $19,102,205, of which the following are the principal items of increase: Customs $7,863,134, internal revenue $3,341,192, profits on coinage, bullion deposits, etc., $1,256,512, postal service $5,516,080. There is shown to have been a decrease in the ordinary expenditures of $4,015,852.

This Year's Income.

The revenues of the government for the current fiscal year are thus estimated upon the basis of existing laws: From customs $148,000,000, from internal revenue $150,000,000, miscellaneous sources $20,000,000, from postal service $89,793,120; total estimated revenues $407,793,120. The expenditures for the same period are estimated at $472,293,120, leaving an estimated deficiency for the year of $64,500,000.

It is estimated that upon the basis of existing laws the revenues for the fiscal year 1898 will be: From customs, $150,000,000, from internal revenue $155,000,000, from miscellaneous sources $20,000,000, from the postal service $96,227,076; total estimated revenues $421,227,076. The estimates of appropriations required for the same period, exclusive of sinking fund, amount to $466,946,047, which leaves an estimated deficiency for the year ending June 30, 1898, of $45,718,970. These estimates of receipts and expenditures, the secretary says, are made upon the assumption that there will be no substantial change in existing business conditions, and that the present scale of public expenditures will not be reduced. But if our ordinary business activity should be resumed and the consumption of articles subject to taxation should increase to its normal proportions, there may be in fact, the secretary says, no deficiency in our revenues.

In his discussion of the currency question the secretary makes an exhaustive argument in favor of the retirement from circulation of United States and treasury notes, in the course of which he says: "Since March 1, 1893, United States bonds to the amount of $262,315,400 have been issued and sold for $293,481,894 in gold, while during the same time notes have been redeemed in gold to the amount of $457,039,855, and on the first day of December, 1896, there was free gold in the Treasury to the amount of $151,510,356.

"Since the resumption of specie payments on the first day of January, 1879, United States notes to the amount of $440,499,987 and treasury notes issued under the act of 1890 to the amount of $86,428,881, making $556,919,868 in the aggregate, have been redeemed in gold and since August 1, 1893, treasury notes to the amount of $35,121,722 have been redeemed in silver and the notes so redeemed have been canceled and retired from circulation. Making no deductions on account of the loss or destruction of notes, the total amount of United States currency in existence on the first day of December, 1896, was $468,358,296, consisting of $346,681,016 in United States notes, and $121,677,280 in treasury notes of 1890, and consequently it appears that the entire volume of such notes have been once redeemed in gold and more than $98,561,000.

So long as the United States notes remain in circulation, questions as to the mode and manner of their redemption, and as to the means of procuring and maintaining a coin reserve for that purpose, will be made political issues, and so long as these questions remain in politics, public confidence in the stability of our currency must be more or less disturbed. Even if the agitation of these questions affected only the value of United States notes, the consequences would be sufficiently serious to justify a demand for their permanent retirement, but the character of our currency is such that whatever creates a doubt or suspicion concerning their prompt redemption in gold on presentation, necessarily impairs confidence in the whole volume of our circulation, and inflicts much greater injury upon the public than could possibly result from the failure of ordinary banking institutions to redeem their paper.

Every memner of the gold reserve, and every manifestation of a formidable public sentiment in favor of the redemption of our notes otherwise than in gold coin at once alarms the whole business community, depresses trade and industry, and impairs the value of our public and private securities in all the markets of the world. There is but one absolutely certain way to remove this delicate and dangerous question from our party politics, and that is to retire

The Bond Issues.

In my last annual report it was recommended that the secretary of the Treasury should be authorized to issue from time to time bonds payable in gold, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 3 per centum per annum, and having a long time to run, and to exchange such bonds for United States notes and treasury notes upon such terms as might be most advantageous to the government, or to sell the bonds abroad for gold whenever in his judgment it might be advisable to do so, and use the gold thus obtained in making redemptions of outstanding notes.

The terms in which this recommendation was made and the suggestions submitted in support of it showed that it did not contemplate the retirement of all the outstanding notes at one time, but that the process should be so conducted as to avoid any danger of an improper contraction of the currency. Believing that this plan of redeeming the notes and at the same time substituting an absolutely sound currency in place of them, promises the most certain means of accomplishing the desired result within a reasonable time, I adhere to the views then expressed, but the object to be attained is so essential to the future financial safety of the country that it ought not, in my judgment, to be defeated or abandoned simply on account of differences of opinion concerning the

While an act conferring express and plenary authority upon the secretary to issue bonds and use them or the proceeds of their sale for the purpose of retiring a certain amount of the notes each year would, in my opinion, be the most effectual and economical way to accomplish that object, it may be that so radical a measure would not receive the assent of Congress in the present state of the public mind on the subject, and if so, it is submitted that at the very least authority should be given to retire and cancel a maximum amount of notes each year when voluntarily presented by the holders and redeemed in gold; and if the maximum amount fixed by Congress should not be retired and canceled in any year by redemptions out of the gold reserve, the secretary of the Treasury should be clothed with authority to apply to that purpose any surplus funds in the Treasury and in addition, if necessary, to issue the character of bonds above described to a sufficient amount to comply with the provisions of the law.

The adoption of such a policy would give immediate assurance of a purpose to return within a reasonable period to a safe and elastic currency system, and would remove much of the doubt and uncertainty which have for many years

Disturbed the Public Mind,

and embarrassed the business of the people and the operations of the government. No sudden or large contraction of the active currency could result from the execution of such a plan, because the redemptions would be made from time to time with money already withdrawn from circulation and held in the Treasury, except in cases where it might become necessary to issue and sell bonds in order to make the redemptions correspond to the amount required or authorized; and in all such cases contraction could be easily prevented by selling the bonds abroad and thus adding their proceeds to our domestic stock of money.

The Banking Laws.

For reasons which were submitted at some length in my last annual report, and which it is unnecessary to repeat, I recommend such amendments to the national banking laws as would permit the issue of circulating notes equal in amount to the face value of the bonds deposited and reduce the tax on notes to one-fourth of 1 per cent per annum, and that authority be given to establish branch banks for the transaction of all kinds of business now allowed, except the issue of circulating notes. These amendments would, in my opinion, greatly improve the system by increasing its efficiency as a means of furnishing accommodations to the people in times of need and in localities where adequate banking facilities do not now exist.

The increase from the customs during the year 1896 was $28,203,221 over the receipts from the same source in 1894, and $7,863,134 in excess of the receipts for 1895; but during the first five months of the current fiscal year the receipts from all sources have been $9,628,928 less than during the corresponding five months of last year, while the expenditures for the same time have increased $14,448,891, resulting in a deficiency of $39,246,845 on the first day of December. The decrease in the receipts from customs during the five months was $12,080,244, while the receipts

From Internal Taxes,

were about the same as during the corresponding period last year. For the eleven months next preceding December 1, 1896, the total value of our importations, dutiable and free, was $800,000 less than during the corresponding eleven months in the calendar year 1895, the decrease in free goods being $65,300,000 and in dutiable goods $51,500,000. More than four-fifths of this large decrease occurred in the first five months of the present fiscal year, the falling off during that period being $50,700,000 in free goods and $44,679,000 in dutiable goods.

It is believed that a careful consideration of the existing situation and a conservative reliance upon improved business conditions in the future fully justify the conclusion that the estimated deficiencies for the current year and for the year 1898 will not be realized unless our public expenditures shall be very materially increased by acts of Congress and that with proper economy in administrations and such reductions in appropriations as might be made without detriment to the public service, the receipts will be equal to the disbursements in 1898.

The great increase in the ordinary expenditures of the government during the last seven years has been without precedent in our history, in time of peace, and presents a subject which imperatively demands the most serious consideration of Congress. An examination of the principal features of objects for which they were made shows that during the first period of four years—1886, 1887, 1888 and 1889—the average annual payments on account of civil and miscellaneous items were $78,262,020; on account of the war department, $78,960,793; on account of the navy department, $16,838,568; on account of Indians, $6,358,789; on account of pensions, $76,586,813, and on account of interest on public debt, $46,009,553, while the average annual expenditures for the same objects during the succeeding

Period of Seven Years

was for civil and miscellaneous items, $96,780,865; for the war department, $49,377,677; for the navy department, $27,868,164; for Indians, $10,304,314; for pensions, $135,328,951, and for interest on the public debt, $31,213,341. The average annual excess of expenditures during the last period over the expenditures for the same purposes during the first period was, for civil and miscellaneous items, $18,518,845; for the war department, $10,616,663; for the navy department, $11,029,498; for Indians, $3,945,015, and for pensions, $58,751,748, the only decrease being in the amount paid for interest on the public debt, which was $14,796,211 less per annum than during the first period.

Protective Duties.

On the subject of protection in this connection the secretary says in part: So long as the income of the government from customs and internal taxes exceeded its expenditures, the fact that protective duties were destructive of revenue, although clearly apparent to all who observed the practical operation of the system, did not attract the attention of the public generally, but the situation has been materially changed since 1892, and hereafter it will not be possible to sacrifice revenue to protection without seriously embarrassing the fiscal affairs of the government by depriving it of an income sufficient to defray its necessary expenditures. If the whole proportion of this income is hereafter to be derived from taxes on imported goods, the protective theory must be abandoned as the basis of our legislation upon the subject, and a well considered and consistent revenue system must be substituted in its place, and in my opinion this can be done without material injury to any trade or industry now existing in this country.

The danger of a large foreign competition in our home market and the alleged injurious effects of such competition upon the interests of domestic labor, have not only been greatly exaggerated in the past, but are less now than at any time heretofore and must continue to grow less hereafter.

HERMANN DEAD.

Sudden End of America's Greatest Magician.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 17.—Hermann, the magician, died to-day in his private car at Great Valley, near Salamanca. He was on his way to Bradford. The remains will be forwarded to New York.

Hermann completed an engagement at the Lyceum Theatre in this city last

HERMANN, THE MAGICIAN.

night, and had later been entertained at the Genessee Valley Club by a number of friends. Death was caused by heart disease.

For many years Hermann has been prominent on the American stage as the foremost exponent of the art of magic and ledgermain. He was a prince of entertainers, and has always been popular in Toledo as elsewhere. Mr. Arthur Henry, of this city, has been press agent for Hermann this season.

THE IRRIGATIONISTS.

Officers Chosen by the Congress in Session at Phoenix.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 18.—The irrigation Congress yesterday elected the following named to be officers for the ensuing year:

Chairman of executive committee, E. D. Moses, of Great Bend, Kas., re-elected, as was also Vice Chairman Brigham Young, of Utah, and E. C. Hudson, of Illinois; treasurer, E. L. Brainerd, of Connecticut; national lecturers, J. Emery, of Kansas and I. W. Fort of Nebraska.

Lincoln, Neb., was fixed upon by unanimous vote as the site for the next Congress.

The national committee chosen embraces: Illinois, Dr. Clark Galpin; Indiana, Hon. Benjamin Harrison; Iowa, Professor J. L. Budd; Michigan, Fred B. Spread; Nebraska, A. C. Wolfondberger, and Ohio, B. F. Shuart.

FAMOUS TOKEN.

The Juxon Medal Sold to an American for $5,000.

London, Dec. 19.—It is stated in neumismatic circles that an American collector, but whose name is withheld, has purchased for $5,000 the famous Juxon medal, or the token presented to Bishop Juxon by King Charles I. upon the scaffold a couple of moments before the knife descended upon his ill-fated neck. The token was sold at auction a short time ago for $3,750, and the purchaser received an offer of $4,000 before leaving the room. It is understood that the token will hereafter adorn a famous New York collection.

Men! Do not despair. Read Thos. Slater's offer on page 4.

ROSWELL G. HORR DEAD.

For Many Years He Had Been Prominent in Politics.

Plainfield, N. J., Dec. 19.—Ex-Congressman Roswell G. Horr died last night at 11 o'clock, after an illness of two weeks with bronchitis and Bright's disease.

Roswell G. Horr was born November 26, 1820, in Waitsville, Vt. He received his education in the public

ROSWELL G. HORR.

schools, and when young moved to Elyria, Ohio. In 1879 he married Miss Carrie Pinney, of Elyria. He in 1864 was admitted to the bar. One year later he moved to St. Louis and went into the mining business. In 1871 he took up his home in Saginaw, Mich., from which district he was elected to Congress on the Republican ticket in 1878 and served with distinction three successive terms. In 1890 he moved to Plainfield, and became a member of the editorial staff of the New York Tribune, which position he has held ever since.

His joint debate in Chicago with W. H. Harvey, author of "Coin's Financial School," attracted much attention. When the National Republican committee called for speakers last fall, he was one of the first to respond, and made over ninety speeches in the Presidential campaign before he was taken ill with bronchitis.

ANOTHER CUTTER.

Revenue Boat No. 3 Successfully Launched From Cramp's Yard.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 21.—Revenue cutter No. 3 was launched at Cramps' shipyard Saturday afternoon. As the new cutter glided down the ways Miss Helen Shoemaker stepped forward, and, breaking a bottle of champagne upon the cutter's bow, said:

"I christen thee Hugh McCulloch."

The launching was a success in every particular. The new vessel will be known as the "queen of the revenue marine." She has been designed for service on the Pacific coast and will make long Alaskan and Arctic cruises. Not only is she the largest cutter yet planned for the service, but she is of peculiar construction, fitted for her prospective battles with heavy ice. It was necessary in her building to make the largest manganese bronze castings ever attempted to serve as stem and stern posts.

She will be equipped with four six-pound rapid-fire guns and four one-pounders. In addition she will have the entirely new feature of a torpedo tube.

MRS. MARY J. HOLMES.

Author Gets an Absolute Decree and Alimony in Connecticut.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 17.—Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, the author, was granted an absolute divorce and $200 alimony from William Holmes, of Ansonia, by Judge Shumway yesterday.

The most interesting feature in the case was the fact that the co-respondent in the case, Molly Kipple, was murdered, it is said, by her husband in a fit of jealous rage at finding her and Holmes together.

In the evidence submitted by the defense was an affidavit by Dr. A. H. Pulford, of Tiffin, O. Dr. Pulford was Mrs. Holmes's physician, and her lawyer, Mr. Goodhart, threatens to bring suit against him for damages on the ground of conspiracy and of divulging professional secrets.

Mrs. Holmes is the authoress of "Ashes," "The Sins of the Fathers," "A Fair Puritan," "The House of Five Gables," and other novels.

COTTON FOR THE ORIENT.

Pacific Mail Steamers Carrying Immense Cargoes.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The Pacific mail Steamship China, which sails for the Orient to-day will carry an enormous quantity of cotton for the mills in China and Japan. In fact she has room for nothing else in her hold. The company refused a large consignment of flour yesterday and it was given out that no further freights would be received. The steamship Belgic, the next to sail from here is also engaged to carry cotton. The Southern Pacific Company has entered into a special arrangement with the steamship company for this cargo. Formerly all the cotton for the Orient went via New Orleans but when the mills in China and Japan grew and multiplied the demand became very general and the Pacific Mail Company made a bid for the business.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

Organization in Kansas to Be Disbanded Next Month.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 21.—J. B. French, secretary of the Kansas Farmers' alliance, is authority for the statement that the organization will be disbanded at the annual meeting here in January. The alliance sprang up in 1890 and its growth in Kansas was phenomenal. In less than a year over 1,000 lodges were organized, with a membership of over 107,000. This included men, women and children. It was a secret organization. "Hazed" was the password.

Out of the alliance organization sprang the People's Party. All the fanatic ideas discussed by the former were incorporated into the national platform of the latter. The number of lodges has dwindled down to less than 100 and the membership to not more than 1,000.

THE IRON KINGS.

Carnegie and Rockefeller Have Joined Hands.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—The Post says: By the trade in which Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller have joined hands the Carnegie Company is said to have obtained control of the Mountain iron property in the Mesaba range and the Rathburn as well. The Mountain iron and Rathburn mines have been among the most prominent of the properties of the Lake Superior Consolidated Company, controlled by the Rockefeller interest. It is believed by some that the result of the combination will have an appreciable effect on the fortunes of the Illinois Steel Company, the corporation regarded as the only considerable rival to the Carnegie Company.

President Gates, of the Illinois Steel Company, is in New York at present.

FT. WADSWORTH'S DEFENSES.

They Will Be Completed in Up-to-Date Style.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The fortification board has recommended the immediate completion of the defensive works at Fort Wordsworth, one of the forts guarding the entrance to Sandy Hook, N. Y. It is intended to make this point a model on the lines of latest developments in the theory of coast defense. It will then be used as a testing station for all proposed devices in the way of range finders, sub-marine telephones, battery controllers and the like.

RICH GOLD STRIKE.

Located in the Black Hills and Averages $150 a Ton.

Deadwood, S. D., Dec. 17.—At a depth of 110 feet in the Daly shaft of Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins, at Ragged Top, a drift was started on the fissure. When about ten feet was completed a large bed of ore was encountered that is fabulously rich. The average ore in the shaft will run $150 a ton. The camp is the richest ever discovered in the Black Hills.

TO ABROGATE THE TREATY.

They Want a Chance to Build War Boats.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 18.—Members of congress are determined to abrogate the treaty between the United States and England which prevents the construction of war vessels on the great lakes, thereby depriving shipyards in Cleveland and other lake cities of contracts. As stated in the following special dispatch from Washington last night, Congressman Burton is agitating the question, and he has the support of every member of congress whose district borders the lakes.

"The agitation in shipping and ship building circles on the great lakes in favor of abrogating the treaty of 1817 with Great Britain, forbidding the maintenance or construction of war ships on the great lakes, is bearing fruit. Representative Burton to-day introduced the following joint resolution in the House:

"'Resolved, That the President and Secretary of State be requested to enter into negotiations with the government of Great Britain to secure, if possible, the abrogation of so much of the treaty of 1817 as forbids the building of warships at shipyards located upon the great lakes.'

"In further discussing his resolution to-day, Mr. Burton said: 'I have long had it in mind to bring forward such a resolution. Our shipyards on the lakes are making wonderful progress, especially in the construction of moderate tonnage. We are close to the best steel market; we have timber in abundance; our yards are well equipped; labor is no higher than elsewhere, and our people are sufficiently anxious to secure their share of naval contracts to induce them to figure very closely whenever they have the opportunity to bid. My resolution has the sanction of the Navy department, which is always glad to extend the field to competition, because they are thus enabled to secure lower prices, and the fact that a larger number of firms can build these small boats makes contractors more scrupulously careful to turn out nothing but first-class vessels. There is no reason why the lake ship-yards should not have almost a monopoly of the construction of small gun-boats, torpedo boats, revenue cutters, and the like, and the resolution which I have introduced is but a step in that direction.'"

EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.

Most Violent Ever Known in Great Britain.

London, Dec. 17.—Great Britain is in the throes of a genuine and unprecedented sensation. An earthquake, the most violent ever experienced in this country has shaken every shire from Durham to Surrey and from London to the Welsh coast. The subterraneous disturbance was first noticed at about 5:30 o'clock this morning and lasted from 4 to 30 seconds. At many points two distinct shocks were experienced.

The most severe shocks were felt at Cheltenham, Ledbury and Dean Forest. The earth shaking was accompanied by a loud, rushing sound. Buildings were violently shaken, furniture was shirted, doors were thrown open and pictures and other ornaments were upset. The inhabitants were panic-stricken and fled from their houses.

The earthquake also visited Birmingham and various other points in Shropshire and was violent in Worcester and the country surrounding that city. Houses rocked and furniture was overturned.

The shocks were followed by a tremor of earth and were accompanied by a rumbling sound. The greatest alarm prevailed everywhere. Chimneys were overthrown, and windows, etc., were smashed.

At some points persons on the country roads were thrown down and a number of people were thrown out of their beds.

Hereford cathedral was injured. There the dull rumbling preceding the earth's surface was followed by two loud crashes and a terrible lifting and rocking.

The panic at Herford was so great that one woman died of fright. People rushed wildly into the streets. Many chimneys fell crashing into the thoroughfares and all the pinnacles of St. Nicholas church toppled over and part of the pinnacle of the cathedral fell to the ground.

At Liverpool the earthquake was preceded by heavy thunder, and a fearful hail storm.

Streets on Fire.

In London the earthquake was only slightly felt.

A singular phenomenon occurred at Bridgenorth near Shrewsbury, previous to the disturbance. The streets suddenly seemed to be on fire, and there was a violent report, accompanied by a shaking of the earth. People who were going abroad in that vicinity say that they were for a time unable to walk, owing to the vibrations.

There was very great excitement among the rustics about Poole who thought that the end of the world had come.

Strange Weather.

Houses shook for nearly a minute at Bristol and Clifton, causing much alarm in those districts.

The railroad employes at Crewe report that they felt the rails oscillate. At Evesham the shock was followed by a brilliant light in the sky.

Up to Tuesday the weather in England was unusually mild, but on Tuesday there was a sudden change to severe frost, which was followed by dense fogs and snow on Wednesday.

In the mining district it was at first thought that the shocks were the result of colliery explosions.

The disturbance was experienced with great violence at Warwick Castle. The Earl of Warwick was awakened and felt his bed lifted as though by some force beneath it, and the furniture in his room was shifted.

SMASHING A TRUST.

Gould is After the Big Diamond Company.

New York, 19.—A private dispatch from Chicago by a Wall street firm says ten shares of the Diamond Match Company's stock have just been transferred to Judge Davis, of Chicago; ten shares to Edwin Gould and ten shares to B. E. V. McCarty. Judge Davis is Mr. Gould's attorney in Chicago and Mr. McCarty is one of the attorneys of the Continental Match Company, therefore this is regarded as a preliminary legal action by Mr. Gould against the Diamond Match Company. Edwin Gould, beyond admitting the correctness of the statement of the transfer, declined to make any statement.

YELLOW FEVER.

It is Claiming Many Victims at Port Au Prince.

Philadelphia, Dec. 17.—The Philadelphia brig Arcadia, Captain Fisher, which arrived here from Port Au Prince, brings accounts of the dreadful suffering of the natives of this pest hole from the ravages of yellow fever. The disease is the worst known to have prevailed for over twelve years, and the people are dying like sheep. The disease has broken out on board a number of vessels in the harbor, in some instances carrying off the entire crew.

PEARL BRYAN'S MURDERERS.

Jackson and Walling Will Be Hung Together.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 21.—Sheriff Plummer, of Newport, has been in consultation with Governor Bradley. The latter indicated that he would fix the same day for the execution of both Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling. The final mandates of the court have not yet reached the governor, but he is already receiving letters by hundreds pleading for mercy for Pearl Bryan's murderers.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

Choctaws Agree With the Dawes Commission.

Muskogee, I. T., Dec. 19.—The Choctaw commission signed a treaty with the Dawes commission late last night. The treaty provided for allotment of lands, town sites, reserve of coal fields for Choctaw schools and relinquishment of tribal government within eight years.

BROOKLYN SOON TO SAIL.

Will Start From Philadelphia Saturday on Her First Voyage.

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—The new United States cruiser Brooklyn, which has been lying at League Island navy yard since going into commission three weeks ago, will start on her first official cruise next Saturday.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Will Make Pritchard Only Republican Senator From the South.

Marion, N. C., Dec. 21.—It is now practically certain that Jeter C. Pritchard will succeed himself in the United States Senate from North Carolina. The Republicans are in a strong plurality in the legislature, which meets on the first Wednesday in January, and enough Populist members have pledged themselves to Pritchard to make his re-election a surety. Butler, the Populist leader, has declared war on Pritchard, but it is thought that he cannot hold the Populists and Democrats together.

The re-election of Senator Pritchard would be a happy issue out of the rather chaotic condition of politics in the "Tar Heel" state. No man more truly exemplifies the progress and prosperity of the "New South" or more fittingly represents its enterprise than J. C. Pritchard. The career of Senator Pritchard illustrates the height to which poor American boys may attain in the councils of their country. He was born in Jonesboro, Tenn., 39 years ago, and his early life was spent in a struggle for subsistence. He received less than a year's schooling altogether, and at an early age was apprenticed in the office of the Jonesboro Tribune-Herald, where a taste for study and research was developed, and where he first manifested evidence of the great ability that has since made him the leader of his party in North Carolina, and a figure in national affairs.

Jeter Pritchard has been a Republican from the time of reaching the age of accountability, and he has been greatly honored by his party. He served with distinction in the legislatures elected in 1884, 1886 and 1890; in 1888 was a candidate for lieutenant-governor on a forlorn hope, and, in his canvass of the state made a reputation as a forceful speaker and a man of engaging personality. In 1891 he was the Republican caucus nominee for United States Senator, and in 1892 was a delegate-at-large to the Minneapolis convention. He was also a candidate for congress in 1892, but, in the general reverses of his party that year, was defeated by a small majority.

Mr. Pritchard was an active promoter of the co-operative movement in 1894, and, through the success of that movement, was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Vance in the United States Senate. His record in that august body has been eminently conservative and statesman like, and he enjoys the confidence and respect of his distinguished colleagues, as well as the love and admiration of his constituents.

VOTED FOR JEFF DAVIS.

Arkansas Gave Him 86 for Presidential Elector.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Jeff Davis, although gone, is not forgotten by some of his former adherents in the South, as shown by the returns for Presidential electors at the election held on Nov. 3, 1896.

According to the provisions of an act of Congress, the secretary of state has filed the certificates of the governor of Arkansas, showing that he has canvassed and added up the votes cast for the office of Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors at the election in the several counties of Arkansas on Tuesday, November 3. After the names of the eight electors who received the highest number of votes cast, giving the state to Bryan, there appears the name "Jeff Davis," with 86 votes to his credit as an elector for President and Vice President.

It has been a matter of current history for many years that some of the old dyed-in-the-wool Democrats are still voting for Andrew Jackson in the back woods of Kentucky and Tennessee, but it remains for Arkansas to take a new departure by casting votes for the alleged President of the defunct Confederacy.

Kentucky Contest Abandoned.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 22.—The 30 days allowed the silver men of Kentucky in which to file notice of contest has expired, and no such action has been taken. The Republicans, it is stated, contest the election of W. R. Smith, the one successful Bryan elector who has been awarded a certificate of election.

FOREIGN.

INTERVENTION.

European Powers Might Take a Hand In It.

London, Dec. 22.—A special dispatch from Paris says it is suggested that Great Britain, France and Italy, the three powers most interested, offer their services in the Cuban question in order to prevent a conflict between Spain and the United States and to terminate the revolt.

PLENTY OF MEN.

The Cuban Junta is Doing No Enlisting.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Mr. Quesada, the Cuban representative here, said today that the junta is not responsible for the enlistments for the Cuban cause that are now said to be going on throughout the United States.

"It is not our desire to break the laws of this country," he continued, "and the enlistments are a clear violation of them. We do not want any more men in Cuba now. Beside the 25,000 or 35,000 we have in the field, we have 60,

WASHINGTON.

CAMERON RESOLUTION.

Senate Committee Favors It for Cuban Independence.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary Olney appeared before the Senate committee on foreign relations to-day, and was closeted with them for considerable time. The meeting was held for the express purpose of continuing the discussion of a policy on the Cuban question to be recommended by the committee, and Secretary Olney was present for the purpose of giving advice and placing before the committee information in his possession bearing upon the question. The meeting was strictly private. Mr. Olney being the only person not a member of the committee who was admitted to the conference.

It was early understood, however, that the tendency of the secretary's advice was against precipitate action by the committee, but the advocates of the Cameron resolution were not displaying any disposition to change their determination to report it.

Recognition Agreed To.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The foreign relations committee of the Senate has agreed to report the Cameron Cuban resolution.

The Cameron resolution is as follows: "Joint resolutions acknowledging the independence of Cuba.

"Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that the independence of the republic of Cuba be and the same is hereby acknowledged by the United States of America.

Section 2. That the United States will use its friendly offices with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and Cuba."

no real government to recognise.

The agreement to report the Cameron resolution was reached immediately after Mr. Olney left the committee room, a quarter past twelve o'clock, and was arrived at without division or expressed difference of opinion. The only division was as to the time that the resolution should be reported to the Senate. Senator Cameron moved its report on Monday next. Senator Sherman suggested that the report should not be put in until after the holidays. When the question was put to the committee, the Cameron motion prevailed by a large majority.

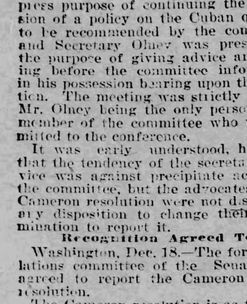
OLNEY'S BIG BLUNDER.

Cameron Resolution Will Be Inoperative Legislation.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Cameron Cuban resolution, if pressed to final passage in both houses, will constitute a direct and formidable issue between the executive and legislative branches of the government. This is clearly indicated by the following interview given out by Secretary Olney to-day:

Secretary Olney being asked his opinion as to the nature and effect of the proposed resolution recognizing the independence of the republic of Cuba, said:

"I have no objection to stating my own view of this resolution respecting the independence of the so-called Republic of Cuba, which, it is reported, is to be laid before the Senate on Monday. Indeed, as there are likely to be serious misapprehensions regarding such resolution, both in this country and abroad, and such apprehensions may have injurious results of a grave character, it is, perhaps, my duty to point out that the resolution, if passed by the Senate,



SECRETARY OF STATE OLNEY.

can probably be regarded only as an expression of opinion by the eminent gentlemen who vote for it in the Senate, and, if passed by the House of Representatives, can only be regarded as another expression of opinion by the eminent gentlemen who vote for it in the House. The power to recognize the so-called Republic of Cuba as an independent state, rests exclusively with the executive.

Inoperative Legislation.

"A resolution on the subject by the Senate or by the House, by both bodies or by one, whether concurrent or joint, is inoperative as legislation, and is important only as advice of great weight voluntarily tendered to the executive regarding the manner in which he shall exercise his constitutional functions. The operation and effect of the proposed resolution, therefore, even if passed by both houses of congress by a two-thirds vote, are perfectly plain. It may raise expectation in some quarters which can never be realized; it may inflame possible passions both in this country and elsewhere, may thus put in peril the lives and property of American citizens who are resident and traveling abroad, and will certainly obstruct and perhaps defeat the best efforts of this country to afford such citizens due protection. But, except in these ways, and unless the advice embodied in the resolution shall lead the executive to revise conclusions already reached and officially declared, the resolution will be without effect, and will leave unaltered the attitude of this government towards the two contending parties in Cuba."

Commits the President.

The impression here is that Secretary Olney's statement pointing the lack of legal effect of the passage of the Cameron joint resolution was called forth by a desire to minimize the danger of an outbreak in Spain on the part of the excitable populace, which is perhaps more imminent than is generally realized in this country. Nothing less than some such emergency, it is argued, would induce the secretary to depart so widely from his usual practice of refusing to comment publicly on foreign relations, particularly during the absence from Washington of the President. Of course the latter is committed by the declaration of the first officer of his cabinet to the view that Congress has no constitutional authority to recognize the independence of Cuba, for to abate anything of this assertion of power on his part would be construed as a repudiation of the action of the secretary and probably would cause a disruption of the cabinet.

So far as can be gathered from a cursory scanning of the records, there is no case to afford an exact precedent for this, for nowhere has the executive and Congress directly differed and made an issue on the question of recognizing another nation. It has been tacitly admitted heretofore that, as Secretary Olney contends, this is a purely executive function, but Senator Cameron, the author of the resolution which has given rise to this issue, it is understood, has made a most careful and exhaustive study of the constitutional aspect of the matter, and is firmly convinced that Congress has power to proceed along the lines of his resolution to recognize the new republic.

President Sure to Veto.

Of course Secretary Olney's statement indicates clearly that if the joint resolution ever passes both bodies of Congress and is sent to the President the latter will veto it not only on the ground of impolicy, but also because it constitutes an infringement of his own prerogatives. Moreover, the secretary in his interview goes beyond this point and in almost as many words says that no attention will be paid to the will of Congress in this matter even if the resolution is passed over the President's veto.

In this case a grave conflict of powers of two branches of the government might be expected to follow, though just how the issue may be made up so that it can be reached by the Supreme Court, the arbiter of all questions of constitutionality, is not clear at present. It is suggested, however, that if the issue goes to that length Congress

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

may achieve its purpose indirectly by the exercise of a power certainly confided exclusively by the constitution, namely, by a declaration of war, which is, after all, in the judgment of many authorities, only that the recognition of the independence of Cuba under existing conditions would mean.

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

Committee Report on Senator Cameron's Resolution.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Senator Cameron to-day presented to the Senate the report of the committee on foreign relations favorable to the adoption of the following joint resolution:

"Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in congress assembled, that the independence of the Republic of Cuba be, and the same is hereby acknowledged by the United States.

"Be it further resolved that the United States will use its friendly offices with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and the Republic of Cuba."

The report is very voluminous. It says: "Congress at its last session, after long and patient consideration, adopted with practical unanimity the view expressed by your committee that the time had come for resuming intervention with Spain for the recognition of the independence of Cuba. Spain having declined to listen to any representation founded on an understanding between herself and the insurgents, and congress having pledged itself to friendly intervention, the only question that remains to be decided is the nature of the next step to be taken with proper regard to the customs and usages of nations. Before deciding this question, your committee has preferred to examine with some care all the instances which have occurred during this century of insurgent people claiming independence by right of revolt. The inquiry has necessarily led somewhat far, especially because of revolt or insurrection, if insurrection can be properly called a right, seems in every instance, except one to have carried with it a corresponding intervention.

Precedents Quoted.

For convenience we have regarded both insurrection and intervention as recognized rights and have attempted to ascertain the limits within which these rights have been exercised, and their force admitted by the general consent of nations. The long duration of the French revolutionary wars, which disturbed the entire world for five and twenty years, and left it in a state of great confusion, fixed the beginning of our modern international systems at the year 1815, in the treaties of Vienna, of Paris, and of the holy alliance. The settlement of local disturbances, under the influence of the powers, parties to these treaties, proceeded without serious disagreement until 1821, when the Greeks rose in insurrection against the sultan.

The report then goes into history and recites in detail the causes and results of many international misunderstandings and wars in Europe and America. Numerous cases of intervention are cited, and the precedents thus made are applied in the case of Cuba.

These precedents tended to establish the right of every government to intervene in the affairs of foreign states whenever their situation should tend to endanger its own safety or the political equilibrium of its frontier.

Cuban Situation.

Under sub-head of Cuba the report concludes as follows:

"Cuba—Into this American system thus created by Monroe in 1822-'5 and embracing then, besides the United States, only Buenos Ayres, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. Various other communities have since claimed, and in most cases have received admission, until it now includes all South America, except the Guianas; all Central America, except the British colony of Honduras, and the two black republics of Spanish Santo Domingo and Hayti in the Antilles. No serious question was again raised with any European power in regard to the insurrection or independence of their American possessions, until in 1869 a rebellion broke out in Cuba, and the insurgents, after organizing a government and declaring their independence, claimed recognition from the United States. The government of the United States had always regarded Cuba as within the sphere of its most active and serious interest. As early as 1825 when the newly recognized states of Colombia and Mexico were supposed to be preparing an expedition to revolutionize Cuba and Porto Rico, the United States government interposed its friendly offices with those governments to request their forbearance. The actual condition of Spain seemed to make her retention of Cuba impossible, in which case the United States would have been obliged, for their own safety, to prevent the island from falling into the hands of a stronger power in Europe.

"In 1822, as now, but with more force, it was objected, as we have shown, that the revolted states had no governments to be recognized. Divisions and even civil war existed among the insurgents themselves. Among the Cubans no such difficulty is known to exist. In September, 1865, as we know by official documents printed on the spot, the insurgent government was regularly organized; a constitution adopted a president elected, and in due course the various branches of administration set in motion. Since then, so far as we are informed, this government has continued to perform its functions undisturbed. On the military side, as we officially know, they have organized, equipped and maintained in the field sufficient forces to baffle the exertions of 200,000 Spanish soldiers.

Civil Government Stands.

"On the civil side, they have organized their system of administration in every province, for as we know officially, they "roam at will over at least two-thirds of the inland country." Diplomatically they have maintained a regularly accredited representative in the United States for the past year, who has never ceased to ask recognition and to offer all possible information.

"The government of the United States entertains none but the friendliest feelings towards Spain. Its most anxious wish is to avoid even the appearance of an unfriendliness which is wholly foreign to its thought. For more than a hundred years, amidst divergent or clashing interests and under frequent and severe strains, the two governments have succeeded in avoiding collision, there is no friendly office which Spain could ask, which the United States within the limits of their established principles and policy, would not be glad to extend. In the present instance they are actuated by an earnest wish to avoid the danger of seeming to provoke a conflict. The practice of Europe in regard to intervention, as in the instances cited, has been almost invariably harsh and oppressive. The practice of the United States has been almost invariably mild and forbearing. Among the precedents which have been so numerously cited there can be no doubt as to the choice. The most moderate is the best. Among these the attitude taken by President Monroe in 1822 is the only attitude which can properly be regarded as obligatory for a similar situation to-day. The course pursued by the United States in the recognition of Colombia is the only course which Congress can consistently adopt."

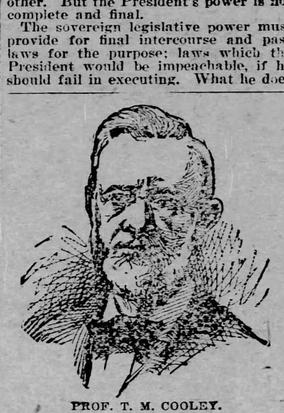
COOLEY'S VIEWS

Do Not Sustain the Stand of Secretary Olney.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—The Commercial Tribune prints the following dispatch from Prof. Cooley, of Ann Arbor, one of the best legal authorities in the land:

Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 19.—The power to recognize belligerency and the lawfulness of action in defense of a government alleged to be de facto must devolve upon the executive power of the country which can recognize no belligerent government until the fact is made clearly known to it that there is in existence a government maintaining itself and enforcing its authority against any other. But the President's power is not complete and final.

The sovereign legislative power must provide for final intercourse and pass laws for the purpose; laws which the President would be impeachable, if he should fail in executing. What he does



PROF. T. M. COOLEY.

in recognizing a new nation is clearly in part legislative, and the action taken, if taken by the President alone, would be so far defective as to be impossible of execution without being perfected now or in the future by the sovereign legislative power.

T. M. COOLEY.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN

If Congress Should Pass the Cameron Resolution.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The action of the Senate committee on foreign relations in agreeing to report the Cameron resolution recognizing the independence of the republic of Cuba has naturally led to inquiry as to how such recognition, if completed, would affect the position of the insurgents. Inquiry of competent authorities goes to show that such recognition from a legal point of view would be of greater value to them morally than in the addition of any substantial and actual privileges to those they now possess.

This moral force probably would manifest itself first in enabling the Republic to float a loan in the markets of the world, and thus obtain the sinews of war in abundance, for with the powerful backing given by this implied expression of our faith in the ability of the insurgents to achieve and maintain their independence, there can be little doubt capitalists would take up such an attractive loan.

Then the Cubans would be represented in Washington by a fully accredited minister and legation, in place of the unofficial representation they now are obliged to be content with.

If the Cubans can manage to put afloat a few war ships, or even privateers, their flag would admit them to United States ports under the neutrality laws, though it is true our government having in mind the Geneva award, could not tolerate the fitting out of such privateers originally in our own ports. However, the privateers could bring their prizes into our ports, and would no longer be kept from the seas by fear of denunciation as pirates.

Furthermore, as this recognition of independence would involve the recognition of a state of war, neither the Spanish government nor the Cubans would be permitted to equip warships or military expeditions in the United States, and this country would observe strict neutrality towards both parties, just as it did between China and Japan in their late war.

One ill-effect upon the United States itself of the proposed action would be the total loss of all of the claims for indemnity for American property destroyed during the insurrection which now may lie against Spain, for our action would relieve her at once of responsibility. As the Spaniards themselves, however, are prepared to prefer large claims against the United States for damage wrought by filibustering expeditions, this loss in a measure would be offset. Of course, too, by recognizing the jurisdiction of the Cubans over their island, we should be able to hold them responsible for further losses of this character. All of these gains to the Cubans, after all, are largely theoretical in value. What the insurgents undoubtedly expect and ardently wish for, in the opinion of the state department people, is the precipitation of a war between the United States and Spain, as the latter power, more than once has intimated that such action on our part as the recognition of Independence of the Cubans would be an unfriendly act, and such authorities as Wharton concede that it would be sufficient for a casus belli.

An interesting precedent in this line, and, by the way, one supporting the assumption that war will result, is the history of the action of our government in recognizing the independence of Texas.

FIRE AND PRISON

May Be the Portion of Cuban Volunteers.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The attention of officials here has been attracted by the stories coming from all portions of the country indicating that enlistments are going on of parties of men to go to Cuba to join the insurgents in their struggle against the Spaniards. These enlistments are in direct violation of the neutrality laws, and are prohibited under severe penalties. For accepting a commission to serve against Spain, a country with which the United States is now at peace, the penalty proscribed by the revised statutes is $2,000 fine and three years' imprisonment, while enlistment to serve against Spain or hiring any one to enlist is almost as heavy, being a maximum of $1,000 fine and three years' imprisonment.

The enforcement of these laws naturally falls within the functions of the United States officials to whose knowledge the attempt at infringement is brought, and if the movements continue on as large scale as reported, it is probable that the Department of Justice will send instructions of a special character to all of its agents, calling their attention to the proclamation issued by the President last spring and enjoining upon them a strict enforcement of the neutrality laws.

PENSION RULINGS.

Important Decision by Secretary of Interior.

Washington, Dec. 16.—There are several important rulings in the administration of the pension laws made in recent decisions of Assistant Secretary of the Interior Reynolds. One of them is that a desertion from the regular army under an enlistment subsequent to a service and honorable discharge from the rebellion is not a bar to a pension under the act of June 27. The original holdings of the previous administration in first construing this act and all subsequent decisions have been overruled because it is held the honorable discharge contemplated under that act is from a service in the war of the rebellion only.

It is reiterated that in harmony with the plain terms of the June act and all previous decisions dishonorable discharges operate as a bar to pension to the soldier or his widow and children under that act, but it is not a bar to such pension under the general law for disabilities contracted in the service or for death from causes originating therein. This is in line with a long-established practice.

TARIFF MATTERS.

No Intention of Passing a Bill This Session.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Members of the ways and means committee say that there have been no developments either in their various conferences or in suggestions from leaders of the house indicating that there is any desire or intention to pass a tariff bill during the present Congress. It had been hoped that the bill on which the committee has now working would be passed at this session. Chairman Dingley said to-day that nothing of the kind was in contemplation, and no such plan would be considered unless something was done by the senate which would be to take up the bill it now has, amend it and put it into conference.

PUSHING THE WORK.

Vessels Must Get Ready for Sea at Once.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Acting Secretary McAdoo of the navy yesterday summoned the chiefs of construction, engineering, and ordnance, Commodores Hichborn, Melville and Sampeach, and ordered them to take whatever steps were necessary to expedite the repairs on all ships now in commission at the Atlantic coast navy yards.

This action is taken, it is explained, in order that all available ships may be ready to rendezvous for drill purposes with Admiral Bunce's fleet at Hampton Roads not later than January 1. The chiefs were also directed to approve no changes or extensive repairs in ships for the present, as it was the desire of the department to get all the commissioned vessels away from the navy yards in order that urgent work may be prosecuted on other vessels which have been dismantled for thorough overhauling.

This extra work at the navy yards is said to be made possible through the assurances given to Commodores Melville and Hichborn by the appropriations committee, before which they appeared yesterday, in regard to the urgency item of $1,000,000 for naval work imperatively demanded.

The required amount was promised and the officers were told the money would be promptly placed at their disposal on their explanation that all work would have to be suspended at once and wholesale discharges of men made unless prompt relief was afforded.

THOUSANDS OF ORPHANS.

Sad Results of the Turkish Massacres in Armenia.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The full extent of the Armenian massacres is indicated in a report to the state department by United States Consul Bergholtz at Erzeroum, wherein he says:

"The number of Armenian children under 12 years of age made orphans by the massacres of 1895 is 50,000 according to the estimates of the missionaries. The question of what shall be done with these orphans is receiving the attention of the Christian world. The American board of commissioners has the question of creating orphanages, clothing factories and industrial institutions under consideration. German charitable or religious societies are preparing to establish orphan asylums and the British ambassador at Constantinople has initiated a movement leading toward settling a number of widows and their children from the province of Erzeroum on the island of Cyprus."

THE TEXAS.

Secretary Herbert Says She Has Only Had Accidents.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The secretary of the navy has made public the findings in the court of inquiry upon the battleship Texas, which recently sank while being drydocked in New York. The secretary says in substance that the Texas is all right and has suffered no more accidents than any other boat of her class in the navy. She has been subjected, he says, to malicious and surreptitious attacks from naval officers, and he issues a general order against officers of the department talking for publication on such subjects. He quotes a letter from Charles Cramp, the shipbuilder, which says that American shipping interests have been injured abroad by the reflections cast on the Texas by the press. The Texas is not one of Mr. Cramp's boats, but was built by the government.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

Many Persons Anxious to Tell What They Think of a Tariff.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The hearings to be given by the ways and means committee on the tariff question promises to attract an even greater number of public business men to Washington than usually gather during a recess revision of the tariff. The committee is already overwhelmed by applications from representatives of the various interests who are anxious to present arguments for increasing the rates. The Democratic members of the committee intend to marshal witnesses to advocate the continuance of the Wilson bill. They desire to have their side of the case included in the printed record of the hearings.

CHARLES R. CRISP.

The Young Man Steps Into His Father's Place.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Charles R. Crisp, of Georgia, son and successor of the late ex-Speaker Crisp, was sworn in as a member of the House when the session opened to-day. A letter from Gov. Atkinson, of Georgia, stated that Mr. Crisp had been chosen at the special election held on the 16th inst. Mr. Dingley called attention to the fact that the letter was not in the usual form of credentials, but he readily yielded to the request of Mr. Turner (Dem., Ga.), that unanimous consent be given for administering the oath to Mr. Crisp, who was greeted with hearty applause as he took his seat at the desk formerly occupied by his father.

AT THE INAUGURATION.

It is Claimed That Washington Taverns Will Be Reasonable.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The inaugural committee is annoyed at reports that Washington hotels would take advantage of the expected crowds on the 4th of March to charge exorbitant rates. Chairman Bell, of the committee, said yesterday:

"I have caused diligent inquiry to be made of the different hotels, and I find the story is absolutely untrue. So far as I can find, no hotel proposes to charge more than the usual rates at such times."

A BLAINE STATUE.

Bill to Erect It at Washington is Introduced in the House.

Washington, Dec. 18.—A bill introduced yesterday by Representative Bull, of Rhode Island, appropriates $50,000 for the erection of a monumental statue to James G. Blaine in Washington.

Central Pacific Bonds.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The secretary of the treasury has announced that sealed proposals for the purchase of $2,780,000 first mortgage bonds of the Central Pacific, Union Pacific and Kansas Pacific railroads, now constituting a part of the sinking fund of the Central Pacific railroad will be received at the treasury department office of the secretary until 12 o'clock m., on the 21st day of December 1896. The bonds will be sold with all interest accrued and unpaid thereon.

Government Expenses.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The house committee on appropriations finished the bill for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898. The bill carries a total of $21,067,869, which is $1,099,281 less than the estimates and $37,899 less than the appropriations for the current year.

Agricultural Appropriations.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The House agricultural committee has practically completed the agricultural appropriation bill. This bill follows very closely the lines of the one drawn last year, and the amount to be appropriated will be about the same, which was, including the weather bureau, $2,298,532.

Slow Canal Work.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Five members of the Illinois delegation in the House

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a lifelong study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Postoffice address.

Prof. W. B. PEERE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., New York

Radway's Pills

Purely vegetable, mild and reliable. For the cure of all disorders of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, Kidneys, Bladder, Female Irregularities, Sick Headache, Biliousness, Constipation, Piles, one of Radway's Pills is sufficient to keep the bowels regular and secure PERFECT DIGESTION, and one of Radway's Pills will accomplish a better purpose than six of the ordinary drastic pills. A few doses will prove the correctness of this statement. Sold by druggists 25c a box, or by mail. RADWAY & Co., New York.

of Representatives called upon Gen. Craighill, chief of engineers, yesterday, to make complaint of the slow progress making in the work of carrying out the project for the construction of the Hennepin canal.

Government Will Help.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The House by 127 to 25 to-day passed a bill providing for government participation in the Nashville, Tenn., centennial exposition. It appropriates $100,000 for a government exhibit, and $40,000 for a government building.

MORGAN'S RESOLUTION.

Calls for Some Information on the Cuban Situation.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The resolution of Mr. Morgan which passed the senate yesterday is as follows:

"Resolved, That the President is requested, if it is not, in his opinion, incompatible with the public service, to send to the senate copies of the papers relating to the condition of affairs in the island of Cuba which are referred to in the report of the secretary of state that accompanies his last annual message as papers collected in the annual volume entitled 'foreign relations of the United States.'

"And also a statement of the several amounts of the claims lodged in the department of state by citizens of the United States against Spain growing out of the alleged insurrection now existing in the island of Cuba.

"And also all correspondence with the Spanish government relating to the vessel called the Competitor and the persons captured with or near that vessel, with a statement of the charges pending in any court of Spain or Cuba against said persons, and the proceedings of such court in those cases; and the place of their imprisonment, the character of their treatment while in prison and the condition of their health; whether said prisoners have had the privilege of counsel of their own selection on any trial that has taken place on such charges, or were represented by any counsel, attorney or other agent of the United States.

CRESPO ALL RIGHT.

No Reason for Alarm About the Venezuelan Treaty.

New York, Dec. 16.—A dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, to the World says:

President Crespo declines, for state reasons, to answer any questions concerning the Venezuelan government's at-

PRESIDENT CRESPO, OF VENEZUELA.

titude towards the arbitration treaty entered into by the British and United States governments. The situation here is misunderstood in the United States, as is evidenced by the false impressions which have been cabled. The best men in Venezuela, those who understand the matter, favor the acceptance of the treaty arranged between Great Britain and the United States. President Crespo will not ask any modification of its terms.

Minister Andrade will sail next Sunday for his return to the United States and this looks as though matters stood well.

HAWAIIANS ANXIOUS.

The Little Japs Are Becoming Too Numerous and Enterprising.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 16.—The secret of Henry Cooper's mission to the United States is out. Mr. Cooper is the Hawaiian minister of foreign affairs. He is here to-day, and is quoted as saying that he came to the United States to urge annexation, owing to the fears that the Hawaiian government has of Japan.

The situation at Hawaii, according to Judge Cooper, is that the Japanese far outnumber all other foreigners. The Americans are a handful in comparison. Hawaii has a treaty with Japan, and cannot exclude the Japanese, who are pouring into the islands steadily, and pushing into every business. They are losing the humble demeanor that characterize their countrymen on this coast, and through their great numbers and the prestige of the Japanese-Chinese war, are beginning to chafe for the elective franchise. If they force Hawaii to give them the right to vote, then American ascendancy will be at an end forever.

Judge Cooper has laid the situation before influential men in the East, and has set upon their judgment, that he believes great strides will be made during the next year toward annexation under the McKinley administration.

CALIFORNIA MINES.

Interesting Reports on the Mills of the State.

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—The thirteenth report of the state mineralogist on the "gold mills of California" has just been received at the state mining bureau. Its compilation covers a period of two years running up to September 15, 1896.

A condensation of the report gives some extremely interesting data, and shows at a glance the present condition of the most important service of the mining industry in this state.

There are in operation in California at the present time 745 mills and 109 arastras. The mills contain 6,221 stamps, an average of a little over eight stamps per mill. The total number of concentrators in use is 757. An important item is the classification of the various methods employed in running the mills. Five are worked by electricity, 330 by water power, 185 by steam, two by gas, four by gasoline and two by horse power. The remaining 166 are unclassified.

There are only nine cyanide plants in the state with a total capacity of 495 tons.

NEW YORK'S VOTE.

What the Empire State Did in the Recent Election.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 16.—The state board of canvassers has completed the canvass of the votes cast in New York at the recent election. On Presidential electors the vote was as follows: McKinley, 819,838; Bryan, 551,369; Palmer, 19,285; Socialist, 17,067; Prohibition, 16,052; blank, defective and scattering, 122,080.

McKinley over Bryan, 268,469; McKinley over all others, 215,455.

No More Waifs for Kansas.

Topeka, Kas., Dec. 21.—The new Populist legislature will probably forbid by legislation the importation of homeless waifs from New York city. The Children's Home Society asks to be protected from the vicious and criminal classes dumped into this state from New York and other cities.

Bering Sea Inquiry.

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—The Bering Sea commissioners, who are now in session at Victoria, will come to San Francisco at the conclusion of their labors there to continue their inquiry at this port.

All men should read Thos. Slater's offer on page 5.

COLLAPSED BANK

Has Tied Up Much Money in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—The excitement attendant upon the collapse of the National Bank of Illinois and its three dependent banks appears to have died out to-day. Runs of more or less magnitude were made yesterday on several banking institutions, notably the Garden City Banking and Trust Company. The doors of that institution were opened an hour before banking hours to-day, but by 10:30 all withdrawals had ceased and deposits had trebled the amounts taken out. Withdrawals at other banks were few and far between. It is generally expected that Bank Examiner McKeon will be appointed receiver permanently for the National Bank of Illinois.

There is quite a little run on the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank. Depositors are handed 30 day notices, except where they can satisfy the officials that the money they desire is for legitimate purpose. The run is regarded as a very good thing, and meets the approval of the clearing house committee.

Queer Loans.

Robert E. Jenkins, one of the directors of the National Bank of Illinois, says: "The directors did not know the size of the loan on the Calumet Electric Company, the discovery of the conditions of the loan was as much of a surprise to me as to the public. The same is true of the loan to Dreyer & Co.

"The directors were unaware of the loans which appear to have carried the bank down or were until the latter part of last week. I do not care to say who I believe was to blame for the directors being kept in the dark as to the magnitude of these loans."

Doubtful Assets.

The assets of the National Bank of Illinois, which closed its doors yesterday, are said to include in addition to the $2,475,000 loaned to the Calumet Electric, $500,000 advanced to Robert Berger, a son-in-law of President George Schneider, $500,000 advanced to G. A. Weiss, another son-in-law, and over $800,000 of doubtful debts. Berger is a partner in the firm of E. S. Dreyer & Co., which also went into the hands of a receiver yesterday. Mr. Weiss is a brewer.

The losses by the failure will fall upon 1,971 individual depositors and 350 national, state and private banks. Included among the depositors are the treasurers of the city of Chicago, of Cook county and of the state of Illinois.

The deposits of the treasurers of the city of Chicago and Cook county will aggregate almost $1,000,000. The amount at the present time on deposit by the state treasurer is comparatively small.

Among the depositors were many large corporations and receivers. They include the receivers of the Northern Pacific railroad and the receivers of the Whisky Trust.

The deposits of E. S. Dreyer & Co. include the funds of the West Park board. The amount at the time the bank closed was about $310,000.

ELEVATOR SYSTEMS.

Will Make Great Changes Under This Decision.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Judge Tuley in the circuit court to-day rendered a decision in the elevator warehouse cases, finding against the warehouse men on all points. Five months' time was granted them to carry on their business and perfect an appeal to the Illinois supreme court which will undoubtedly be taken.

The cases have been pending for several months, the action being in the shape of a petition brought on the information of Attorney-General Moloney for an injunction restraining the elevator men from buying, mixing and storing their own grain with that of their customers. This injunction was granted the court holding the practice of the elevator men as illegal. The elevator companies affected are the Central, Geo. A. Seaverns, South Chicago Armour, Charles Counselman, Chicago Railway Terminal, Nebraska City Railway; Chicago, Edson Keith, Alexander Davis and others.

The decision if sustained by the Illinois supreme court will make a great change in the elevator system.

ON A SAND BANK.

United States Cruiser Boston Sustains Some Damage.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 17.—The United States cruiser Boston has been so badly stranded by running on the Korean coast, that it is expected she will have to return home for repairs.

News reaches here in a private letter to one of the officers of Her Majesty's ship Imperious, that on November 5, the Boston was proceeding to Chamulpo when she struck heavily on a sand bank in "Flying Fish" channel, twelve miles from the city. She succeeded in getting off next morning with the rise of the tide, and it was at first supposed her injuries were slight, but since then she was found to be leaking, owing to a badly strained plate amidships.

CONATY'S VIEWS.

The Prelate Will Make a Statement When Inaugurated.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—Dr. Conaty, of the Washington University, who lectured here last night, states that on the day of his inauguration he will make a statement as to where he stands regarding the conflicting schools of thought in the United States, which are causing trouble to the Catholic heirarchy. "I leave the people to judge me by my past record," he says. "In religion, I am a Catholic; in politics an American."

Heavy Gold Consignment.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—The steamer Mariposa from Australia which arrived this morning brought here 350,000 sovereigns equal to about $1,740,000. The coin was shipped by the Bank of Australia and the Union Bank of Australia to the Anglo-California Bank and Lodon, Paris and American Bank of this city.

Markets and Crops.

THE TRADE REVIEWS.

What Dun and Bradstreet Say of Business.

New York, Dec. 19.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

Cuban reports, unusual closeness of money in Germany, and the decision that there will be no action on the tariff at this session have not really changed the situation, but have been talked about as if they might change it. A sudden demand for gold from Germany continues, though towards the close of the year is not unusual nor does it amount to much. Not facts, but only desires or fears, have led some to look for a change of tariff before March, and considerable speculation based on that idea has been arrested, but other business waits for the gradual improvement of the consuming demand. The holiday trade is generally large, though at some points more confined to cheap goods than usual, and the influence of an increase in the working force is felt in other ways. But until the new year, the only material changes expected are such as prepare for a large business next year. In the iron and steel industry these appear of the utmost importance.

Exports of cotton are naturally stimulated by lower prices. Receipts from plantations continue heavy. The demand for goods in this country falls below the increased production, and the market is weak in tone with prices of some jobbers' bleached goods sharply reduced. Speculation in wool has halted, and concessions are more frequent, Ohio XX selling at 19c against 20c recently. The demand for goods seems to have been postponed until after the holidays.

The boot and shoe industry is near the end of the orders, receiving scarcely any of the advances, but eastern shipments are still large.

Wheat rose about 2c Monday, but declined still further and closed 1½c lower for the week. The receipts in two weeks have been 6,625,382 bushels, against 11,600,587 last year and Atlantic exports for three weeks have been, flour included, 6,921,134 bushels, against 5,907,824 last year. Northwest exports, flour included, were 15,815,836 bushels, against 11,332,140 last year, of which Pacific exports were 5,818,149, against 4,405,391 last year. For three months exports of cotton and breadstuffs only have about equalled the total value of all imports.

New York, Dec. 19.—Bradstreet's says:

Wholesale trade continues of smaller volume than expected, practically the only activity in the wholesale line being in groceries, candies, fruits and nuts. The weather has interfered with seasonable business, which, at many centers is smaller than in preceding years in that a larger proportion of purchases are of a cheap grade of goods.

The downward tendency of prices pointed out a fortnight ago is continued. This includes quotations for hides, which caused boot and shoe jobbers to restrict purchases, anticipating cuts in prices for shoes, steel rails, steel billets and Bessemer pig iron.

Cotton, too, is lower on confirmation of a larger crop than was expected, as are also print cloths, because of the large stock, anthracite coal, Indian corn, oats and petroleum. Steady or practically unchanged quotations are reported for pork, lard, coffee and sugar. Wheat and rosin are higher.

The dry goods market is unseasonable for unseasonable fabrics, jobbers reporting only a small trade. Woolen mills report a moderate quantity of orders.

Exports of wheat (flour included) from both coasts this week amount to 3,724,826 bushels as compared with 4,222,000 last week, and 2,056,000 bushels in the week a year ago. Exports of Indian corn from both coasts continue heavy, aggregating 2,814,050 bushels compared with 3,541,000 bushels last week and 2,057,000 bushels a year ago.

There are 359 business failures reported throughout the United States this week, 22 fewer than last week, and 26 less than in the corresponding week one year ago.

There are 29 business failures reported from Canada this week, compared with 42 last week and 42 in the week a year ago.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Dec. 22, 1896.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 22.	Dec. 15.
U. S. 4's (new) coupons	119¾	120¾
U. S. 4's (new) registered	119¾	120¾
U. S. 5's coupons	113¾	114¾
U. S. 5's registered	113½	113¾
U. S. 4's coupons	110¾	110¾
U. S. 4's coupons	109¾	109¾
U. S. 2's registered	95½	95½
Pacific 6's of '97	99½	99½

Condition of the Grain Market at the Close To-Day.

At the opening this morning wheat was strong. The short interest put out yesterday helped the markets. The statistical position was strong. Cables came higher and engagements were good. The announcement of the failure of the bank of Minnesota and Stockyards bank at St. Paul had a somewhat weakening effect, but the undercurrent of strength was so strong that the markets soon gained strength and closed firm. Trade was well extended.

Corn held steady throughout the day. There was no particular feature to influence prices. At Chicago December corn opened at 22¾c and closed at 22¾c; May, 25c, 25¼c, then 25¼c. At New York December corn sold at 28½c; May, 31¾c bid; close, 31¼c bid.

Prices of wheat to-day:

May.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
Toledo	95	95¾	94¼	95¾
Chicago	80¾	80¾	79¾	80¾-⅞
New York	85¾	86¾	85¾	86⅝
St. Louis	89⅞	90	89¾	90

At Chicago December wheat opened at 77c, rose to 77¼c, fell to 76⅝c, and closed at 77c nominal; July, 75c; close, 75¼c. At New York July wheat opened at 81⅝c asked, fell to 81¼c and rose to 81⅝c bid.

Export clearances to-day: Wheat, 181,000 bushels; flour, 40,000 barrels; or wheat and flour as wheat, 364,300 bushels; opened at

Primary receipts to-day: Wheat, 279,000 bushels; last year, holiday; shipments, 191,000 bushels; holiday. Receipts of corn, 552,000 bushels; holiday; shipments, 132,000 bushels; holiday.

A Chicago dispatch says: Judge Tuley has decided the famous elevator case in favor of the Board of Trade and against the elevator men. It involves the right of elevator owners to buy and sell grain.

Puts at Chicago for December, $6.75 nominal; May, $7.92; close, $7.90.

Oats for December, 16¼c; close, 16¼c; May, 19¾c; close, 19¾c asked.

Estimated receipts at Chicago for to-morrow: Wheat, cars, 20; corn, 240; oats, 230.

Puts at Chicago for May at 1:40 p. m., 79¾c; calls, 81¼c; curb, 80¾@80⅝c.

Board closing: Puts wheat unchanged to 10c lower, flour, 10c lower to 5c higher. Berlin wheat ¾@1 mark higher; Antwerp unchanged.

Board closing: Liverpool wheat, spot 1s lower to ½d higher; futures, 4s higher. Corn